

HDRC Sandwell Public and Community Engagement Steering Group

Role

Member of Public and Community Engagement Steering Group as part of the Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) Sandwell.

Background

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) has been awarded £5 million funding from the National Institute for Health & Care Research (NIHR) to establish a HDRC. NIHR HDRC Sandwell is a 5-year partnership between the Council, the University of Birmingham and the voluntary sector, working with wider partners and stakeholders across the borough and region.

HDRCs focus on the wide range of factors, outside of health care, that influence people's physical and mental health. These factors are known as the wider determinants of health. They include how polluted the air is on your street, the quality of your accommodation, if you own a car or use public transport, how good the schools are, and where they are and whether you have a job.

The HDRC will improve how we carry out research to find evidence of what works and supports people, how we use it to make decisions and how we communicate findings to others. This will help to improve the quality of the services we deliver and commission and improve the health and wellbeing of all our residents.

What is the Public and Community Engagement Steering Group?

A group of people from different backgrounds who live or work in the local area. They will work alongside the HDRC team to provide local voices, views and opinions on our work and activities.

Purpose of the Group

The Community Steering Group will guide and offer feedback on our involvement and engagement opportunities and activities as part of the HDRC. In addition, it will be an opportunity to discuss views on local issues related to these wider determinants of health, to help guide our understanding, and what research, or evidence we need. Guiding, coproducing and building our community engagement as part of the Health Determinants Research Collaboration Sandwell.

Who are we looking for?

People who: -

live or work in Sandwell

- Are interested in how evidence can impact health, social and community issues
- Care about improving the health and lives of all people in Sandwell
- Interest in working with HDRC team to engage with different communities
- Will offer their time to attend meetings every 3 months

Please see the related person specification for more details.

Duration of the role

We are asking for a commitment of 12 months.

Payment

You will be paid in accordance with the NIHR Payment rates set out on our HDRC Sandwell Policy. It is expected that you will be attending hour meetings on a quarterly basis and will be paid £25 per hour for these meetings.

How will you be paid?

Payments will go into a nominated bank account. Claims for payment are made through Sandwell Consortium. Claims should be made after you have completed an activity, meeting or training sessions and submitted within 1 month of activity. We do not give out vouchers, cash or similar. However, if you are a member of a community organisation, payment can be made to the organisation if you would prefer this method. **Please note that payments may affect benefit payments, it is up to you as a member of the steering group to manage these tax and benefit implications.** [More information can be found here](#)

This role can be on a voluntary basis if you choose to do so. In this case expenses will be paid for any in person sessions.

How to Apply

Please complete the expression of interest form using the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/R7NH7raSbq>

If you would like to have an informal chat or need any support completing the form, please contact Erinn Beech at Sandwell_HDRC@sandwell.gov.uk

Person Specification

Experience

- Some experience or understanding of research and research involvement would be desirable.

Knowledge

- Awareness of your local area and the needs local people may face.
- An interest in helping the HDRC develop evidence and research to improve health inequalities
- Knowledge of what research is, how it is done and what it can contribute to how services run.

Skills

- Basic IT knowledge as you will be required to use Microsoft Word for documents and access Microsoft Teams for some meetings.
- Be proficient enough in the English Language to be able to be involved in meetings and to help with some written documents. We accept this comes at all levels, and if English is your second language, you have learning disabilities or any visual or auditory challenges this will not hinder your involvement with our project, and we will work with you to enable you have equal accessibility and any support you require throughout.

Personal Qualities

- Confidence to be able to be actively involved in the steering group meetings, share feedback and hold the HDRC team to account if something has been missed.
- Commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Maintain confidentiality
- Able to work with others