

Honorary Research Assistants

Background

NAPICU is a not for profit multi-disciplinary organisation, which was formally established in 1996, and is committed to developing and promoting the specialities of psychiatric intensive care and low secure services. We are dedicated to improving service user experience and outcome, promoting staff support and development, improving effectiveness of care, providing practice guidance and promoting research, education and practice development.

Subsequent to recent revision of National Minimum Standards for Psychiatric Intensive Care Units, NAPICU is developing the role of **unpaid honorary research assistants**. We are actively recruiting for interested individuals who would be willing to assist with particular projects that NAPICU is involved with or leading upon.

Exact roles and levels of commitment will depend upon the project to which the successful applicant works upon but it is envisaged that those appointed will be able to commit regular specific time to the named project. Explicit details will be developed between NAPICU's project lead and the appointed individual. An honorary contract with NAPICU will be given on a six month rolling process subject to satisfactory appraisals.

This would be an ideal opportunity for recently qualified psychologists or Specialist Psychiatric Registrars but in line with NAPICU's multidisciplinary nature, we are inviting applications from qualified nurses, psychologists, social workers, doctors, pharmacists or occupational therapists to assist with the following projects:

- 1) **National Survey of PICUs and low secure units.**
 - a. A previous survey was conducted around the time of publication of the previous national standards in 2001. This led to several publications within the Journal of Psychiatric Intensive Care. In conjunction with development of revised standards it is important to update the body of knowledge surrounding service provision within the UK.

- b. Successful applicants will be responsible for collating the data received within an appropriate and timely fashion and will take a lead in analysis. They would be expected to liaise with individual units as well as external organisations and present at NAPICU events.
- c. They will report to the Director of Research and work closely with the Membership Lead in ensuring that the survey is completed by units within the UK.
- d. The survey is expected to result in a document and several scientific papers published by NAPICU and the successful applicant will be specifically recognised within the list of contributors to any document. It is expected that publication will be around **April 2016**.

2) Development of Standards for Adolescent PICUs

- a. In conjunction with other stakeholders, NAPICU is leading on development of these standards.
- b. The successful applicant will be responsible for collating, consistency checking and proof reading the standards. They will also take a lead in working with contributors to ensure work is delivered within anticipated timescales and develop specific areas of the standards as agreed with the Project Lead (whom they will report to).
- c. Upon publication of the standards, the successful applicant will have their name specifically and prominently included within the list of contributors.

Qualities and Abilities

Applicants for these unpaid posts will be assessed against the following qualities and abilities:

a) Intellectual Capacity

- a. Ability to absorb and analyse information
- b. Ability to acquire knowledge of the underlying principles of the projects
- c. Knowledge of psychiatric services
- d. Experience of statistical processes would be an advantage

b) Personal Qualities

- a. Ability, willingness and capacity to commit specific time to an unpaid role.
- b. Integrity and sound judgement
- c. Objectivity and decisiveness
- d. Ability and willingness to learn and develop professionally
- e. Ability to travel (appropriate travel expenses will be refunded)

c) Authority and Communication Skills

- a. Ability to interact productively with different individuals and organisations.
- b. Capability with computer software packages

d) Efficiency

- a. Ability to organise time effectively and work towards deadlines
- b. Ability to work constructively with others

Application Process

For further information and to express your interest please contact NAPICU's Director of Research, Dr Stephen Dye via NAPICU's administration (napicu@northernnetworking.co.uk). Applications should be sent to the same address by 1st August 2014 and consist of a letter outlining why you should be considered and accompanied by a brief CV (of no more than 2 sides). It is anticipated that interviews will take place on Weds 3rd September 2014 in Birmingham and that successful applicants will have a six-month probationary period.