

Appointment of Senior Research Consultant - Maternity Leave Cover

February 2021



Introduction

Revolving Doors is at an exciting time. We have an ever-expanding research portfolio of independent research to support our policy programmes and campaigns, client-funded evaluations and user research, and academic partnerships. Independent research underpinned our Short-sighted campaign for a presumption against short prison sentences, while insight from our user research directly influenced the Government's Transforming Justice courts and tribunals reform programme.

We are looking for an independent consultant to provide part-time maternity cover to lead our talented, enthusiastic and committed research team. The role will be 1 day per week (with the flexibility to work 2 days when needed), starting from mid-March and lasting approximately 1 year. It will largely be delivered remotely – all Revolving Doors staff have been working from home since March 2020 – but with the expectation that 1 day per month can be in person in our London office as and when Covid-19 restrictions permit.

You will provide oversight and supervision to our Evaluations Manager and Research Manager, who respectively lead on evaluations and independent research, as well as for research associates. As a team, you will be responsible for implementing our 2020-2024 research strategy, which sets out how research will contribute to our organisational ambition of a smarter criminal justice system that makes the revolving door avoidable and escapable.

Our research is grounded in the insights of those with lived experience of the 'revolving door' and is focused on bringing about real-world changes for that group. The role will therefore require collaboration with colleagues in our involvement and policy teams, as well as with sector and academic partners – and people with lived experience themselves: we are a sector leader in the coproduction of research with people with lived experience.

To be our ideal candidate:

You will demonstrate the creativity and sensitivity that research work in the criminal justice system requires. Ideally, you will have great knowledge of, and links into, the criminal justice pathway, having undertaken research with either the police, courts or probation – but you might come from an allied social justice sector. Whatever your background, you will be motivated by using research insights to drive real-world change – and able to demonstrate where you have done this already.

You will have a proven track record in leading qualitative research with vulnerable individuals safely and ethically. You will have experience of securing research funding, either through grants or contracts, and you will be a skilled manager, with the aptitude and desire to hold accountability for and quality assure a wide-ranging portfolio of projects.

You will be passionate about bringing lived experience insight into all aspects of the research process. You will enjoy building partnerships and working collaboratively, supporting the team to seek out partnerships with academics and other social researchers that share our values, particularly around the shifting of power in knowledge production.

Most importantly, you will have the skill and aptitude to supervise early- and mid-career researchers, to support them to manage and deliver their respective projects, and to further develop their research skills.

Role Description

This is an exciting opportunity to lead our research team.

We are looking for someone who shares our values. Someone who is bold, truthful, optimistic. Who understands the value of lived experience insight. Who can co-produce innovative research that shifts the power in knowledge production, bringing academic researchers and people with lived experience into challenging dialogue in which each voice is equally valued.

Key Responsibilities

- Leading the charity's research function, including responsibility for implementation of the 2020-2024 Research Strategy and research ethics
- Supervising two staff members (Evaluations Manager and Research Manager), plus independent research associates as required
- Supporting the team to identify and build research partnerships with sector colleagues and academics that share our values
- Identifying grant- and social enterprise research and evaluation funding opportunities, and working with the team and the interim Head of Partnerships to develop proposals and secure funding
- Providing project oversight and quality assurance for all research projects and outputs, ensuring that research findings are communicated for maximum real-world impact
- Supporting the team and the interim Head of Partnerships to measure our impact, and to better share our learning across the team and with the wider world
- Represent research in the Senior Leadership Team.

Person Specification

Essential

- Significant experience of supervising research activities undertaken by others
- Experience of managing a portfolio of research projects on time and to budget
- Experience of designing research frameworks, methodologies and methods
- Experience of implementing an ethical framework
- Experience of coaching/mentoring early-/mid-career researchers
- Significant experience of undertaking research projects using multiple methods, both qualitative and quantitative, notably in-depth interviews and focus groups with vulnerable individuals
- Experience of using research software packages for analysis, such as SPSS, NVivo, MAXQDA
- Ability to build working relationships with a wide range of stakeholders, including academics, clients and people with lived experience of the revolving door
- Excellent oral, written and presentational communication skills, and ability to tailor messages and writing/presentation styles to 'land' findings and recommendations with different audiences.

Highly Desirable but not Essential

- Knowledge of the current criminal justice policy and/or service delivery context, or experience of conducting research with the police, courts and/or probation
- Knowledge/experience of action research methods and/or theory of change development.

Next Steps/To Apply

If you would like to apply for this consultancy, please:

Send

- An up-to-date CV
- A covering letter (max 2 pages please) outlining how you meet the role and person specification
- Your day rate

To

admin@revolving-doors.org.uk
with "Senior Research Consultant" in the subject line

By

Closing date:
Monday 1st March at 5pm

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Informal discussion

If you would like to have a confidential, informal discussion, please contact

Katy Savage, Head of Partnerships
katy.savage@revolving-doors.org.uk
07983 613 091

Interviews

First round interviews for shortlisted candidates will be held via Zoom/MS Teams on 4th March 2021.

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