

NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Greater Manchester

Research Inclusion Lead

Invitation to submit an expression of interest.

Are you passionate about making research more inclusive and ensuring everyone has a fair opportunity to take part and benefit?

The NIHR Applied Research Collaboration – Greater Manchester (ARC-GM) is seeking a Research Inclusion Lead to help embed inclusive and equitable approaches to address systemic barriers to participation in our workforce and research giving fair opportunities to all.

The Research Inclusion Lead is a senior leadership position within ARC-GM and will be a member of the Executive Group, working alongside the ARC-GM Directors to influence the strategic direction of the collaboration. The postholder will provide leadership and challenge on research inclusion, ensuring it is embedded within ARC-GM's governance, priorities, culture and delivery. This role will shape how ARC-GM responds to inequalities in research participation, workforce representation and public involvement, translating strategic ambition into meaningful and measurable change across the partnership.

- **Open to colleagues employed across ARC-GM partner organisations:** Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, Edge Hill University, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, Health Innovation Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care, Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust, Northwest Ambulance Service, Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust, Stockport NHS Foundation Trust / Tameside & Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, Trafford Council, University of Greater Manchester, University of Manchester, University of Salford, Wroughton, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- **Funded up to 0.2 FTE** and is designed to work alongside an existing role. We recognise that applicants may bring different experience, working patterns and availability, and we are happy to discuss how the role could work in practice.
- **Available until 31st March 2031**

Why this role matters?

As Research Inclusion Lead, you will have the opportunity to:

- Shape the future of inclusive research across one of England's 11 NIHR funded Applied Research Collaborations

- Influence strategy and practice, for inclusive and equitable research practices for researchers, staff, trainees and public contributors.
- Help ensure research reflects the needs of our diverse Greater Manchester population and increasing representation from those who are underrepresented.
- Leave a legacy that supports better health outcomes and reduced health and social care inequalities.

You will join a committed network of ARC-GM leaders, public contributors and research themes who are already driving this agenda, building on strong foundations to accelerate our collective ambition.

About the Role

This is a senior strategic leadership role for research inclusion across ARC-GM. While accountable for setting direction and driving progress, the postholder will work collaboratively through ARC-GM's established networks, themes and partnerships to deliver lasting change. The Research Inclusion Lead will co-design, drive and refine the ARC-GM's Research Inclusion Strategy.

Our objectives for research inclusion are to:

1. Create an inclusive ARC-GM culture where everyone feels valued and can thrive.
2. Increase opportunities for underrepresented groups to build research careers.
3. Enable equitable participation in research by removing barriers and working with diverse Greater Manchester communities.
4. Drive improvement using data, insight and lived experience.

Your role will be to:

1. **Set direction:** co-develop, lead and refine the Research Inclusion Strategy, delivery plans and measures of progress.
2. **Build partnerships:** between researchers, staff, public contributors, community partners and NIHR colleagues.
3. **Embed inclusive practice:** Support themes to design, deliver and share research in more inclusive ways. Improve the uptake of inclusion training and facilitate this learning being embedded into practice.
4. **Use data and learning:** establish and oversee monitoring, the use of Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs), participation tracking and learning from lived experience. Share best practice across Greater Manchester and the wider NIHR community.
5. **Grow opportunities:** support outreach, career pathways and involvement opportunities for underrepresented groups.

Key stakeholders include the ARC-GM Strategy and Engagement Managers, ARC-GM Executive, Core Operational Management Group (COMG), Theme Leads, Research Capacity Development teams (RCD) and Patient and Public Involvement, Engagement and Participation (PPIEP) teams, the Research Engagement Network (REN), Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) partners, and NIHR infrastructure across Greater Manchester including the NIHR

Biomedical Research Centre (BRC), Clinical Research Facility (CRF), NIHR Patient Safety Research Collaboration (PSRC) and NIHR Health Determinants Research Collaborative (HDRC).

Eligibility

We welcome applications from people with experience in applied research, community engagement, public involvement, equality and inclusion, workforce development, capacity building or related fields who can demonstrate a commitment to making research more inclusive.

We are looking for someone who can bring relevant experience, a strong commitment to inclusion, and the ability to work with others to turn ambition into practical action, someone who can show:

- An established track record of research leadership in applied health and/or social care research
- Commitment to inclusive research and reducing health and care inequalities.
- Supporting underrepresented groups into research, involvement or career opportunities, using inclusive research methods such as INCLUDE, STRIDE, EIAs or co-production.
- Experience of leading or influencing change
- Confidence working with different partners and communities.
- Ability to communicate clearly and bring people together.
- Ability to use evidence, data or feedback to improve practice.

It would also be helpful if you have experience of:

- working with VCFSE or community partners
- experience of promoting workforce inclusion
- monitoring participation, involvement or inclusion outcomes

What success could look like

- People across ARC-GM feel welcomed, valued and supported, regardless of their background or experience.
- More people from underrepresented groups are involved in research, whether as researchers, staff, trainees or public contributors.
- Research teams routinely think about who might be missing from their research and take practical steps to make participation easier and more inclusive.
- ARC-GM has a clearer picture of who is involved in our research and where barriers still exist, helping us focus our efforts where they are needed most.
- Research better reflects the diverse communities of Greater Manchester, making it more relevant, accessible and able to help reduce health inequalities.

- ARC-GM has strong relationships with communities, partner organisations and NIHR colleagues, helping us work together to improve research inclusion across Greater Manchester.

How to Submit an Expression of Interest

Please submit the following:

- 1 A statement (maximum of 2 pages) outlining:
- 2 Your motivation for applying.
- 3 What experience you will bring to the role.
- 4 A CV (maximum 4 pages)

Please send your expression of interest to arc-gm@nihr.ac.uk FAO Sue Wood by **Friday 18th September 2026**

Further Information

For informal enquiries or a discussion about the role, please contact Sue Wood at Sue.Wood@mft.nhs.uk