



SFI Public Service Fellowship 2023

1. Name of Governmental Department or Agency
National Health Service Improvement, Public Health, Health Service Executive.
2. Title of the Project
HSE1 Population Health Needs Assessment: development of the national framework and associated tools and training resources
3. Description of the Project
<p>The HSE's Public Health Service protects and promotes the health of the Irish population, contributes effectively to major service design and policy implementation, strives to address health inequalities, and ensures a population needs based approach to integrated healthcare delivery. The Public Health Service has embarked on a programme of strategic structural reform to implement a new, consultant-delivered service delivery model aligned to international best practice and to address the recommendations of the Crowe Horwath Report. The enhanced service delivery model introduces a strong Public Health Function strategically aligned within the HSE and to healthcare delivery structures. Aligned to this reform, six new Public Health Areas have been established in line with the Slaintecare Regional Health Areas.</p> <p>Within the new model, Health Service Improvement will be led nationally by a Director of National Health Service Improvement who reports directly to the National Director of Public Health. Through health service improvement work, Public Health will aim to prevent disease and improve health-related outcomes through the design, utilisation and evaluation of effective and efficient healthcare interventions including review of access and pathways of care. Such work will include population health needs assessment, population-focused health service prioritisation, health service co-design/re-design (ie. Models of Care), and health service implementation (including Education & Training, Monitoring and Evaluation)). Health Service Improvement (HSI) programmes will be organised to support Integrated Care Programmes for population cohorts and priority populations.</p> <p>A key priority for Health Service Improvement is to develop the framework for, tools and resources to ensure a national approach to Population Health Needs Assessment, to support national needs-based health service prioritisation and commissioning. This approach will be informed by best international practice and applied to the Irish national and regional health system in a way that ensures the right balance between best practice fidelity and tailoring to different regional and population needs.</p>
4. Project Scope
This project will include the following steps:

- Scoping of the published and grey literature to identify international exemplars of population health needs assessment frameworks.
- Key informant interviews nationally and internationally to understand benefits and limitations of the different approaches to health needs assessment in practice
- Deliver workshops to key stakeholders including patients and public- to agree the need, purpose and readiness of a national population health needs assessment framework.
- Design the framework and identify resources that required at regional and national level to apply this national approach to population health needs assessment.
- Test the framework via a pilot study, likely in one health region or with a priority clinical programme.
- Design supporting tools, resources and a training package to enable consistent application to designing services to meet population health needs.
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The successful candidate will work with the Director of National Health Service Improvement and their multidisciplinary team to deliver on this project.

5. Skills/Expertise Required

Required:

- Experience leading a project and working as part of a multidisciplinary team.
- Experience in qualitative research methods, including interviews and facilitating group methods e.g. focus groups, workshops etc.
- Experience in quantitative methods.
- Excellent Communication Skills (Oral, Written, Presentation etc.) in order to liaise effectively with stakeholders in the research project.
- Excellent organisational and administrative skills including a proven ability to work to deadlines.
- Experience in setting own research agenda.
- Experience in systematic analysis and evidence synthesis.

Desirable but not a requirement:

- Experience translating research findings into actionable recommendations and conclusions for practice.
- Experience developing tools and resources that support practice-based implementation.
- Experience in public health and/or health service improvement, health care delivery or health sciences
- Experience with Population Health Needs Assessment methodologies.
- An established track record of publication in international peer reviewed journals or international conferences, on relevant topics.
- Project management experience.
- Research experience in healthcare, especially public health.

6. Expected Outputs of Project

The outputs of this project expected are:

- National population health needs assessment framework

- Population health needs tools
- Population health needs training resources
- Peer review publications on same

7. Working Arrangements

The placement will be located at Stewarts Hospital, Palmerstown, Dublin. Hybrid working such as remote and in office working will be accommodated.

8. Expected Timeline

The researcher would be expected to be involved with this project on a full-time basis over a period of 12 months commencing Q1 2024.

Part time working may be considered.

Please note that early stage work for this project will commence in Sept 2023.

9. Contact Details

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