**Join our Covid-19 public research panel to help shape our research**

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) South London is a research organisation that brings together researchers, health and social care practitioners, and local people to improve health and social care in south London.

There are 15 ARCs across the country and each one is made up of a combination of local providers of NHS and social care services, NHS commissioners, local authorities, universities, private companies and charities. Our aim is to improve lives and the quality of health and social care in south London through applied research. **Read more about the ARC South London’s work at: www.arc-sl.nihr.ac.uk www.arc-sl.nihr.ac.uk**

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the NIHR ARC South London is re-focusing its applied research to directly address Covid-19 in different areas of our work.

You can read about our current Covid-19 research projects on our website

[https://arc-sl.nihr.ac.uk/research-and-implementation/our-research-areas/covid-19](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Farc-sl.nihr.ac.uk%2Fresearch-and-implementation%2Four-research-areas%2Fcovid-19&data=04%7C01%7Cjosephine.ocloo%40kcl.ac.uk%7C9f2d9c6db91e4f6da80008d88fb61f02%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637417359644751120%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=L0ua8sK5ly1Uik0tWY1JZEzsX0bMu7cPZdA%2BXEoxD70%3D&reserved=0)

The pandemic is impacting on people in south London in very different ways. It is therefore important that we involve diverse groups in our work to help us produce research that addresses the needs of local people and communities

**To ensure diverse communities can have a say in this research and propose new ideas for research, we want to set up a Covid-19 research panel for the public.**

**Members of the panel will be paid for their time.** Theywill be paid for three hours of work (a two-hour meeting and one-hour preparation) at the rate of £60 per person, per panel meeting. During a year-long pilot period, we expect the panel to meet once a month. All panel meetings will take place online, via Zoom or Microsoft teams.

**Aims of the panel**

* The panel aims to ensure that diverse communities can share their experiences of Covid-19 and the pandemic, including issues of inequity and discrimination. This will feed directly into our research, which has a strong focus on reducing health inequalities.
* The panel will enable ARC researchers to benefit from the involvement of diverse south London communities in their Covid-19 research in order to improve health and care in south London.

**Membership of the panel and how it will operate**

The panel will initially be piloted for one year. During this time, it will meet online once a month. At the end of the pilot period, the panel will be co-evaluated by its members and ARC staff.

The panel will consist of up to 12 members of the public, drawn from groups covered by the nine protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity) under the Equality Act 2010. The Act aims to eliminate discrimination and advance equality of opportunity. Panel membership will be open to people with lived experience, service users, carers, and community organisation representatives. If the panel feel that broader public expertise is needed on a topic, then there will be options to advertise for up to eight more public members to join a particular panel session. These members will be reimbursed for their time at the same rate as other public members.

**We are looking for members of the public whose background involves any of the protected characteristics (listed above), who live or work in south London and can demonstrate:**

* Good experience and knowledge of working with different individuals and groups covered by the protected characteristics and the health and social issues, inequalities and discrimination people in these groups face
* An understanding of how people in these groups might be impacted by Covid-19
* The ability and desire to contribute to discussions on different research topics across health and social care related to Covid-19 research and provide a public or lived experience perspective on these issues.

If you are interested in being involved, please fill in the attached application form and email this to: **Madelene Boyton** (Research Coordinator, Centre for Implementation Science)

Email: madelene.boyton@kcl.ac.uk

**The deadline to receive applications is December 8th 2020 by 5pm**

**Covid-19 research panel for the public – application form**

**Date**

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**Name**

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**Address (can you also indicate if you live or work in south London)**

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**Email**

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**Telephone number**

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**Why are you interested in being a panel member?**

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**What experience do you have of being in and working with any of the groups covered by the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 (outlined above)?**

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**Can you tell us about any current or previous experience of public involvement in research or health and social care delivery?**

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**Are there any other experiences you would like to share that you think are relevant to this application?**

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