



Economic
and Social
Research Council



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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ESRC Policy Fellowships 2021: Opportunity description

Fellowship Title: SG Social Care

Host: [Scottish Government](#)

Host team: Social Care Analytical Unit, Health and Social Care Analysis Division

Summary: Research to underpin social care policy development and implementation for the National Care Service.

Policy topic: Social Care, Social Policy, Public Health

Potentially relevant academic disciplines: Social Policy, Political Science, Behavioural Science

Relevant research career stage: Early career

Practical details

Start of 3-month inception phase: December 2021 or January 2022

Length of core placement: 9-12 months

FTE for core placement (range): 0.5- 1

Location requirements: Flexible on location, subject to ongoing covid restrictions there is potential for the role to be remote or partially based in a Scottish Government building if desired.

Necessary level of security clearance [Baseline Personnel Security Standard](#) will be required and may require 4-6 weeks to obtain. See [National security vetting: clearance levels - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Detailed description

The fellowship would focus on social care policy and analysis – a high priority area for the Scottish Government.

[The Independent Review of Adult Social Care \(IRASC\)](#) reported in February 2021 and sets out a vision for a new system for adult social care in Scotland overseen by a National Care Service. The report sets out a series of recommendations in relation to:

- a human rights based approach;
- improved support for unpaid carers;
- closing the implementation gap and improving quality;
- models of care;
- fair work;
- finance.

It also emphasises the critical role of people with lived experience in service design and delivery. It is anticipated that legislation will be introduced during the first year of the current parliament, and that the National Care Service will be operational by the end of the parliament. The redesign and reconfiguration of services envisaged in the IRASC will require good quality, relevant, timely and accessible evidence to underpin the effective development and delivery of improvements to social care in Scotland, informing strategic planning, and the monitoring of performance and outcomes.

The fellow would work as part of the multi-disciplinary Social Care Analytical Unit within the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Analysis Division. While the specific focus of the work would be tailored to the research fellow's skillset and interests, potential workstreams could include:

- Understanding good practice in relation to preventative support and the critical success factors for scale up and spread of local models.
- Enhancing the evidence base on equalities and inequalities in access to and experiences of social care.
- Ensuring an effective role for the voice of lived experience in policy design, delivery and analysis.
- Providing analytical support and advice on monitoring progress towards improved social care outcomes.

Knowledge exchange opportunities will include ongoing engagement with analytical and policy teams, and seminars to share findings. The fellow would also be expected to engage with the developing social care research infrastructure in Scotland.

Opportunity-specific person specification

Applications will be assessed against the following opportunity-specific requirements in addition to the generic eligibility and call criteria.

Skills/ expertise:

- Broad awareness of the role of quantitative and qualitative social research methods and their application
- Knowledge of social research and analytical methodologies and ability to demonstrate practical application of qualitative and/or quantitative approaches
- A research background in social care or another social policy related subject