**Project name:** Lay advisers wanted for a research project to look at investigating the policy making process and policy environment of a sugar tax in the UK, US and Mexico to develop a best practice model.

**Invitation:** This is a preliminary request for lay advisers. The project will only proceed when we have received money to carry out the research.

Would you like to be a lay adviser for a research project investigating the policy making process and policy environment of a sugar tax in the UK, US and Mexico to develop a best practice model?

You do not need to be an expert in, or have knowledge about, the policy making process or policy environment.

You should have an interest in public health and/or improving health in populations.

**Background:**

Many countries have identified sugar as a cause of concern and consumption has tripled worldwide over the last 50 years. Sugar, specifically in sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) are a major concern due to the increased intake, particularly among children and adolescents. Sugar is associated with poor diet, poor dental health, obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, dementias and common cancers. The sugar tax has been proposed to combat this problem and has been implemented in some countries.

In March 2016, the UK government announced a sugary drinks tax, to be implemented in 2018. The UK followed Mexico who announced a sugar tax in 2013, which since has been implemented and evaluated. Furthermore, some states in the US have been successful in implementing a sugar tax.

For this research, we will investigate the policy making process in the UK, US and Mexico to develop a best practice framework for implementing and maintaining the sugar tax using different methods, including analysing policy documents and interviews with key stakeholders.

To inform this project, we would consult with you as lay advisers to inform the project development and delivery. In addition, we would welcome your views and possible experiences relating to sugary drinks and the proposed sugar tax in the UK.

The team, based at the University of Liverpool, is led by Ms Lirije Hyseni.

If you would like to learn more about us and the work and research we do, please follow the weblink: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/psychology-health-and-society/research/ncd-prevention-and-food-policy/>

**The role of the lay advisers:** At this point in time, we are keen to get advice from one to two individual(s) on our written application for funding; particularly research design to make sure we are asking the right questions, and the sections that need completion in plain English to ensure they are jargon free and clear. We would also be keen to make a plan on how to involve lay advisers at each step of the project going forward beyond the design, through analysis to interpretation, dissemination, and publication of the results. This plan will then be included as part of the grant application. We would plan to start the project in late 2018 and undertake the research in 36 months.

Reasonable attendance and travel expenses will be paid for involvement in this planning stage.

If we are successful in obtaining money to carry out the project, we would seek the active involvement of you as a lay advisor to ensure the successful delivery of the previously devised plan. Your position would be voluntary, but we plan to include a budget for travel and time according to the Involve guidelines.

**Who to contact if interested:** Please contact Ms. Lirije Hyseni via email by **FRIDAY 20th October 2017** for further information. Lirije Hyseni is based at the Department of Public Health and Policy at the University of Liverpool.

**Contact details**

Ms. Lirije Hyseni email: [l.hyseni@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:l.hyseni@liverpool.ac.uk)