

PHIRST LiLaC Public Advisor: Role description

What is the PHIRST?

PHIRSTs (Public Health Intervention Responsive Studies Teams) are funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). PHIRST works with local authorities to evaluate projects and activities that aim to improve public health. Examples of PHIRST evaluations so far include:

- Providing employment support to people seeking jobs through a collaborative and equalities-driven approach
- Moving drug and alcohol services on-line during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Community-led action to reduce gambling related harms

For more information about PHIRST please visit the website: <https://phirst.nihr.ac.uk/>

LiLaC (the Liverpool and Lancaster Universities Collaboration for Public Health Research, <https://lilac-healthequity.org.uk/>) received a 5-year funding award in March 2022 to set up a PHIRST. PHIRST LiLaC is located in the North West of England but we provide evaluation support to local authorities across the UK. Currently, we are undertaking 4 evaluations which are located in: Bristol, East Sussex/Southampton; Liverpool and Kent. We expect to be allocated 6 more evaluations which could be located anywhere in the UK.

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for two members of the public to join the PHIRST LiLaC Public Advisory Panel. Ideally you will be interested in public health; health inequalities and research/evaluation and you will join the two existing members of our Public Adviser Panel.

What would the role involve?

The role involves supporting public involvement within PHIRST LiLaC as well as in the evaluations that are being carried out as part of the programme:

- Advise on how public involvement happens
 - Within PHIRST LiLaC
 - In each of the local evaluations that are assigned to PHIRST LiLaC
- Contribute a lived experience perspective during evaluation planning
- Contribute a lived experience perspective to ensure our evaluation plans have an adequate focus on health equity using the Health Inequalities Assessment Toolkit <https://forequity.uk/>
- Advise on how to make the evaluations and their findings accessible (e.g. lay summaries, different ways to present/ explain evaluation outputs)

This will mainly happen through:

- Attend and contribute to meetings and follow-up activities for example, monthly team meetings, evaluation specific meeting with research team and Local Authorities, PHIRST LiLaC management/oversight committees
- Commenting on documents
- Replying to/sending emails

What time commitment does the role involve?

PHIRST LiLaC is funded until February 2027. We can be flexible about the amount of time public advisers would like to be involved and public advisers are free to leave at any time.

The amount of time taken to support public involvement in PHIRST is likely to vary depending on the demands of the different evaluations. Some months might be quieter or busier depending upon what stage each evaluation is at. It is up to each public adviser to decide how much time they are able to contribute and which activities they would like to take part in.

What about payment for time, skill and expertise?

Public involvement fees would be agreed before each meeting or task. We also reimburse agreed and reasonable expenses.

What skills and experience are required for the role and how do I sign up?

We think the following skills and experiences would be useful to this role:

- Experience of, or an interest in being involved as a member of the public in public health research
- Direct, personal experience of a social/health issue or service; or social/health inequality or injustice
- Experience of making research more accessible or a willingness to learn about how to do this
- Being able to absorb and analyse information and think of new ideas and solutions
- Confidence in speaking and sharing opinions and views amongst different groups of people
- Experience of using computers for on-line meetings, reading/writing documents, sending/receiving emails or a willingness to learn

A willingness to learn includes drawing on your existing experience and knowledge and being open to and engaging with new experiences, skills and information on a certain topic.

Please write up to half a page **or** make an audio or video recording up to five minutes long telling us:

- Why you are interested in getting involved in PHIRST LiLaC
- What you would bring to the role
- What experiences you've had working as part of a team

Applications will be reviewed by a panel including Jennie Popay and Tim Wilson and/or Jacqui Cannon who are the Public Involvement co-leads for PHIRST LiLaC. Depending on how many applications are received, we might invite applicants to take part in an informal conversation.

If you would like to apply for this public advisor role please send an email, along with either the written statement **or** video or audio recording to c.burke7@lancaster.ac.uk by **Thursday 30th Jan 2025**. We aim to make a decision before the end of Mid Feb 2025

Please note that we will need to complete a right to work check for new Public Advisors, and that payments for you time could impact any benefits/have tax implications. If in doubt please contact your benefits officer or your local HMRC office.