



Evaluation and Learning Specialist - fixed term/secondment for up to 2 years due to funding.

Salary: Band: 10, £42,838 - £47,181 per annum (£25,471 - £28,053 for 22 hours)

22 hours per week: 0.6FTE - working pattern to be discussed at interview.

Office attendance is required, this remains flexible, subject to business needs.

The Service

This role is hosted by Portsmouth City Council through the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) Portsmouth and will support the evaluation of the Place Partnership programme. The Place Partnership programme is funded by Sport England, with Energise Me acting as the accountable body.

What is the role?

The successful candidate will work collaboratively with partners across Portsmouth to design, deliver and embed learning from a programme of evaluation that supports system-wide approaches to improving health and wellbeing.

Portsmouth City Council's Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) Team is a 5-year programme, supporting the council in making better use of evidence in decision making. Portsmouth's Place Partnership work is systems-based, involving Portsmouth City Council, Energise Me (our local Active Partnership), voluntary sector organisations, communities, and academic partners. This role will support Portsmouth's Place Partnership programme and its shared ambition to tackle physical inactivity through place-based and systems-focused approaches.

The postholder will lead the development and delivery of evaluation and learning activity across the Place Partnership investment, helping partners understand how change happens within complex systems and how collective action contributes to improved outcomes for Portsmouth residents.

The main focus will be on generating and applying evidence and learning to support decision-making, strengthen partnership working and demonstrate impact. The postholder will work across a wide range of organisations and communities, helping to embed evaluation and learning approaches that support continuous improvement and adaptation. The role will provide access to specialist research expertise, professional support and development opportunities.

Main Responsibilities:

Evaluation and Learning

Lead the development and delivery of evaluation and learning across the Place Partnership programme. Co-designing qualitative and quantitative approaches to understand what works, for whom, in what circumstances and why. Develop methods that capture change within complex systems and place-based working, bringing together

evidence from local insight, partner learning, lived experience and independent evaluations to inform learning, adaptation and decision-making.

Systems Thinking and Impact

Support partners to understand the systems that influence physical activity and health outcomes, helping them test assumptions, identify learning and explore how change happens within complex environments. Contribute to building the evidence base for the Place Partnership approach and communicate the short and longer-term outcomes of place-based, systems-focused working.

Capacity Building and Support

Support partners to strengthen their evaluation and learning capabilities. Facilitate reflective discussions, learning activities and knowledge-sharing opportunities. Encourage the effective use of evidence to inform decision-making and future action, while developing practical ways to capture, share and embed learning across the system.

Partnership Working

Build and maintain effective relationships with partners, communities, academic institutions and stakeholders. Working collaboratively with the Place Partnership Board and delivery partners to support learning, improvement and a culture of collaboration, curiosity and continuous learning across the partnership.

Reporting and Governance

Prepare reports, presentations and learning products for a range of audiences, collating evidence and insights to meet reporting requirements, including those of Sport England. Ensure evaluation and learning activities align with the Place Partnership Theory of Change and agreed priorities, while maintaining accurate records and supporting effective programme management and governance.

The post will be working with a variety of stakeholders including Place Partnership Board and delivery partners, Portsmouth City Council services, Community and voluntary organisations, Academic and evaluation partners, Sports England and HDRC Portsmouth team.

Who is the person?

You need:

1. A degree level qualification or equivalent experience in a relevant discipline such as research, evaluation, public health, social science or related field.
2. Experience of designing, delivering or supporting research, evaluation or learning programmes.

3. Experience of qualitative and quantitative research or evaluation methods, with the ability to design practical and proportionate evaluation approaches.
4. Experience of analysing and interpreting data and information to support decision-making. An understanding of how evidence can be used to inform policy, practice and decision-making.
5. Experience of working collaboratively with a range of organisations and stakeholders.
6. Experience of presenting findings and communicating complex information to different audiences. You will have the ability to facilitate discussions, workshops and learning activities.
7. Experience of managing work programmes and delivering to agreed timescales.
8. Knowledge of research and evaluation methodologies.
9. Understanding of evaluation and learning within complex or place-based systems.
10. Awareness of health inequalities and the wider determinants of health. You will be passionate about improving outcomes and reducing health inequalities
11. Understanding of, or strong interest in, systems thinking approaches.
12. Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
13. Excellent written and verbal communication skills. The ability to converse at ease with customers and provide advice in accurate spoken English is essential for this post.
14. Ability to build positive and productive relationships across organisational boundaries.
15. Strong organisational and project management skills.
16. Ability to work independently and use initiative.
17. Proficient in Microsoft Office applications.
18. Curious and motivated to understand how change happens.
19. Collaborative and relationship focused.
20. Adaptable and comfortable working in complex environments.
21. Committed to learning, reflection and continuous improvement.
22. Experience of place-based working, systems change, community development or physical activity programmes is desirable
23. Experience of working in local government, public health, academia or the voluntary sector is desirable



- 24. Knowledge of Theory of Change approaches is desirable
- 25. Experience of developmental, realist, contribution or systems-based evaluation methods is desirable
- 26. Experience of supporting organisational learning and capacity building is desirable
- 27. Experience of working with communities and incorporating lived experience into evaluation and learning is desirable

You will need to demonstrate that you have the Right to Work in the UK. No post will be offered without it.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Portsmouth City Council is the Data Controller of any personal information you provide when applying for a job. It will only be used in connection with the recruitment process and will not be kept for longer than necessary. For more detailed information you can access the Data Protection Privacy Notice on our [careers portal](#).