



Anna Freud

Job Profile

Job title	Research Officer - ChAPTRe
Reporting to	Senior Research Fellow
Employer	Anna Freud
Salary	£30,000 FTE per annum, plus 6% contributory pension scheme
Location	Hybrid (a mixture of home/onsite working): staff are working onsite for at least 20% of their working hours, either at our London site (4-8 Rodney Street, London N1 9JH) or our Northern Hub (Huckletree, The Express Building, 9 Great Ancoats Street, Manchester M4 5AD).
Working hours	Part-time, 14 hours per week, flexible hours but must include some time on Wednesdays
Holidays	27 days plus Bank Holidays FTE
Term of contract	Fixed-term until 31 July 2026

About Anna Freud

We are a world-leading mental health charity for children, young people and their families. Our purpose is to take everything that we have learned over the last 70 years, and to transform the mental health of current and future generations of children and young people, to close the gap between mental illness and mental wellness - and to create a more compassionate society for everyone. Our vision is a world where all children and young people are supported effectively to enable them to develop their emotional and mental health, build on their strengths and achieve their goals in life. Our mission is to close the gap in wellbeing and mental health by advancing, translating, delivering, and sharing the best science and practice with everyone who impacts the lives of children, young people and their families.

Purpose and overview of the role

The Research Officer will be working on a 3-year evaluation of the government's Start for Life Programme (currently in its second year). Start for Life aims to support families during the "critical first 1001 days"- from pregnancy until the child is two years of age. More details are available here: [The best start for life: A vision for the 1001 critical days](#). The programme will be delivered in 75 Local Authorities in England and will provide investment in services to support perinatal mental health, parent-infant relationships, and infant feeding. The evaluation aims to determine if and how the programme is improving a range of outcomes for infants and their parents and carers.

The evaluation is a collaboration between the University of Oxford, UCL, Cambridge University, Ecorys, and the Anna Freud Centre. The Anna Freud Centre-led component of the project will sit across the Child Attachment and Psychological Therapies Research Unit (ChAPTRe) and the Applied Research and Evaluation Division.

The post-holder will form part of the evaluation team and will be involved in a broad range of research activities. The tasks will include recruitment and retention of families for longitudinal research, conducting interviews with parents and carers, working with Local Authorities to imbed routine outcome measures, supporting questionnaire data collection, supporting Public and Patient Involvement in the overall evaluation, maintaining databases, processing large amounts of qualitative data, data analyses and reporting.

Main responsibilities of the role

The exact duties and responsibilities of the post-holder will depend on the skills and interests within the team and will be allocated accordingly. These are likely to include a combination of the following:

- Establishing and maintaining professional networks within the participating Local Authorities and linked community services;
- Recruiting families to participate in longitudinal case studies;
- Data collection through a combination of online, telephone and in-person interviews;
- Retention and follow-up tracking of participating families;
- Working with Local Authorities to identify services appropriate for routine outcome evaluation;
- Assisting Local Authorities to imbed routine outcome measures;
- Recruitment of families liaising with Local Authorities to complete questionnaire data;
- Setting up and maintaining databases;

- Working with data transcription services to ensure transcription is completed;
- Qualitative and some quantitative data analysis;
- Interim and final report writing;
- Preparing dissemination documents for a wide range of stakeholders;
- Supporting PPI activities, and consultation with PPI groups on relevant aspects of the work;
- Attending regular project meetings;
- Supporting the wider evaluation team as necessary.

All employee responsibilities:

- To maintain an awareness of and actively follow and promote Anna Freud's policies, including Equal Opportunities, Health and Safety, Safeguarding and Information Governance;
- To complete all Anna Freud mandatory training, including but not limited to Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Equality and Diversity and Information Governance, within the required timescales;
- The welfare of the children, young people and vulnerable adults who come into contact with our services either directly or indirectly is paramount and all staff have a responsibility to ensure that best practice is followed, including compliance with statutory requirements.

To be noted

This is not an exhaustive list of tasks; the employee will be asked to undertake other ad hoc tasks relevant with the scope and purpose of this role. This job description reflects the present requirements of the role, and as duties and responsibilities change/develop, the job description will be reviewed and be subject to amendment in consultation with the post-holder.

Person Specification

Before starting your application, please read the below in full to understand the requirements of this role. The key criteria which will help us to assess candidates are listed below. There is guidance to highlight at which stage the criteria will be assessed. **Please ensure all criteria listed to be assessed at application stage are evidenced in your supporting statement.**

Criteria	Assessment Method (Application/Interview/Task)
Qualification/training, experience and/or knowledge	
Degree or equivalent in Psychology or other relevant discipline that included some research methods in the curriculum.	Application
Knowledge and experience of conducting evaluation research.	Application and Interview
Good knowledge of adult and /or infant mental health.	Application and Interview
Skills and/or abilities	
Ability to engage parents and carers in research.	Interview and task
Excellent capacity to establish effective working relationships with professional networks.	Interview
Excellent research interviewing skills.	Task
Excellent written and oral communication skills.	Interview
Ability to collect, record and analyse quantitative and/or qualitative data to a high standard.	Interview
Other requirements	
Willing to travel to study sites on some occasions (no more than 3 times per year)	Interview

During the interview(s), candidates will be asked at least one question regarding our values, and one question regarding equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI). We expect everyone to actively demonstrate our values and inclusive behaviours in all areas of their work. **Our values and EDI statement can be viewed [here](#).**

Equal opportunity

We ask our people to share their diversity dimensions with us as it helps us to identify, tackle and prevent any bias appearing across the employee lifecycle at Anna Freud. Monitoring this information allows us to understand how well our efforts to improve diversity, equity and inclusion are working. Your responses will be held securely by our HR team in accordance with our privacy policy and will not be seen by recruiting managers or the interview panel at any stage of recruitment, therefore your responses will not form part of our selection process.

Further support

We want to ensure all candidates can access and apply for our vacancies equitably, if you require any additional assistance to apply or would like to find out more about the role, please contact us on recruitment@annafreud.org. We aim to provide reasonable adjustments where operationally possible for the work that we do.

Post-interview

If successful after interviewing, you will be notified verbally with a job offer and pre-employment checks will be initiated.