

**CARERS  
TRUST**



**Research and  
Involvement Officer  
Recruitment Pack**



# Research and Involvement Officer

## Wales

**Contract:** full time, or 0.8 FTE

**Hours:** 35 hours or 28 hours a week, flexible work options available but must work Mondays.

**Salary:** £30,000 - £34,000

**Location:** Hybrid, anchored to the Cardiff Carers Trust office 1-2 days a week.

## Why this role is pivotal to Carers Trust

The Research and Involvement Officer (Wales) is pivotal to Carers Trust's mission to transform the lives of unpaid carers by securing robust evidence to influence changes to policy and practice for unpaid carers in Wales.

Through leading on the delivery of high quality independent research, collaborating with research partners and bringing insight on the social impact of Carers Trust's Welsh programmes and our Network to the fore, the postholder will support us to establish Carers Trust as a credible partner amongst policy and decision makers in Wales.

In doing so, the postholder will ensure that unpaid carers are meaningfully involved in the design and delivery of research and will be instrumental in enabling unpaid carers to be directly heard by researchers and decision makers. This will include the involvement of young carers and unpaid carers of all ages in the development of programmes, policy, and providing mechanisms for unpaid carers to speak truth to power to influence for change. The postholder will play a key role in bringing Welsh voices and perspectives to our UK-wide research and involvement functions and will work with colleagues across the UK to produce impactful evidence to influence changes beyond Wales' borders.

## In this role you will



- Establish structures for the meaningful involvement of unpaid carers from across the Carers Trust Network of local carer organisations in our policy and evidencing work, and involve and support unpaid carers in both the design and delivery of research projects
- Undertake original qualitative and quantitative research projects and produce policy reports and recommendations based on the evidence gathered
- Develop and maintain relationships with key academic institutions, identifying opportunities to work jointly on high quality research relating to carers, and work with external partners to commission larger research projects that impact the caring population
- Disseminate and communicate research findings through appropriate methods and utilise insights from findings to produce resources that influence policy and practice
- Alongside colleagues from across the UK, provide insight on both the social impact of Carers Trust's programmes and Network of local carer organisations and inform public policy by analysing and synthesising datasets from a variety of sources

## Our ideal candidate



- An inclusive approach to meaningfully involving and supporting unpaid carers in all aspects of research and influencing
- Both an analyser and a strategic thinker who has the ability to translate data and evidence into impactful social policy implications
- Experience of planning and delivering research projects, with sound knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methods
- An excellent communicator with an ability to engage sensitively and appropriately with a variety of stakeholders, including unpaid carers, young carers, academics, policy makers and peers in other third sector organisations
- A strong track record of producing thought-leading reports, publications and other written content based on evidence
- The ability to manage a range of external stakeholders, bringing people together to facilitate reference and advisory groups
- A trusted colleague with an ability to represent Carers Trust and develop professional partnerships with external organisations
- A collaborative approach to working across teams towards a shared purpose
- A professional approach to work with a willingness to speak honestly, and to be accountable
- A working knowledge of the policy context, devolved systems and structures in Wales particularly relating to health, social care and education
- An appreciation and respect for the bilingual context of Wales

## Main responsibilities (not an exhaustive list)



- Developing mechanisms in Wales, in line with UK-wide approaches, to involve unpaid carers in research undertaken by Carers Trust and by external partners. This will include 'recruiting' to involvement work and providing the ongoing support needed by unpaid carers working with us
- Leading on the involvement of young carers from our Youth Council as peer researchers and supporting them to communicate their research to wider audiences and to influence for change
- Undertaking original qualitative and/or quantitative policy research into the experiences of unpaid carers, which provide insight into our policy priority areas of carer finances, young carers futures and inappropriate levels of care
- Communicating research findings through writing engaging policy and practice research reports, presenting at conferences, and finding new and engaging ways of disseminating findings. This may include developing tools or resources to support our Network of local carer organisations and others to implement recommendations
- Working with Carers Trust staff in the UK and Scotland to share research findings, develop best practices across all Carers Trust research work, and promote a research and evidence culture
- Developing partnerships with academics, including through associate status with SBARC at Cardiff University, to partner in research and ensure the involvement of unpaid carers in all aspects of research. Where appropriate, this will secure funding in return for Carers Trust's expertise, such as through the Carers Research and Implementation Group (CRIG)
- Providing expert advice to guide the development of evaluation frameworks for Carers Trust programmes, such as by developing Theory of Change, and using our validated social impact measurements, in line with UK-wide approaches
- Supporting the synthesis and analysis of data from our programmes and our Network of local carer organisations, such as the Carers Support Fund and the Network Data Exchange, to understand the social impact of our work, its policy implications and to inform the programme cycle
- Working in partnership to ensure that insights from the independent evaluation of the Short Breaks Scheme, led by the University of Bangor, informs the programme cycle and policy implications are taken into account

## How to apply



Please apply by uploading your CV and supporting statement via the Carers Trust website as instructed.

For an informal conversation about the role please contact Catrin Edwards, Head of External Affairs Wales, on [cedwards@carers.org](mailto:cedwards@carers.org)

**Application deadline:** Sunday 11th August

**Expected interview date:** W/c 19th August



