

Job description

Job title:	Senior Economist
Accountable to:	Assistant Director/Head of Economics Research
Salary:	£69,321 per annum plus excellent benefits
Contract type:	Permanent
Hours per week:	37.5 hours per week, core hours 10:00-15:00 (part-time working and job share requests will be considered)

The Health Foundation

We are an independent charity committed to bringing about better health and health care for people in the UK.

Purpose of the role

This is a senior role in the Health Foundation's Research and Economic Analysis for the Long term (REAL) Centre. The REAL Centre was set up in 2019 to improve the quality of strategic decisions about the health and care system – including on funding, on service priorities and workforce – so that they are based on good evidence and consideration about their long-term impact.

Since its formal launch in autumn 2020 the REAL Centre has published several significant reports and analysis and achieved considerable influence. It has published two major reports: the *Bigger Picture* – an analysis of NHS activity since 2000, and a new set of health and social care funding projections to inform decisions in the 2021 Spending Review. In addition, it has also published analyses of workforce issues, of the impact of the pandemic on NHS services and health, and on social care reform. Its analysis is used by decision makers and is often quoted in the media.

The REAL Centre is a team of around 15 people within the Health Foundation. It is headed by a director (Anita Charlesworth), who is supported by a senior leadership team. This post is one of two senior economist posts who between them oversee a portfolio of projects covering a range of core issues relating to the demand for and supply of health and social care.

The postholder will manage the team's work on key supply-side issues (particularly workforce and funding), and lead the team's work on social care, including the development of a new social care model being undertaken by an external partner. They will also act as project lead for one or two major REAL Centre outputs. They will manage a small team and will be part of the REAL Centre senior management team.

Key responsibilities and outcomes

Key responsibilities for the role are:

- To lead the REAL Centre's work on social care – including developing and agreeing the work programme and scoping individual projects within it. In particular you will be the project lead for a new social care workforce and demand model, being developed by an external economics consultancy. You will chair project and governance groups meetings and be responsible for ensuring that the project's aims are achieved.
- To work with the assistant director / head of economics research in developing the REAL Centre's strategy relating to the supply of health and care. This will include defining the REAL Centre's aims in the areas of workforce, technology and efficiency, and the analytical work programme needed to achieve these aims.
- To design, undertake, oversee and quality assure analytical projects and key pieces of analysis.
- To work with the REAL Centre data manager to access key datasets within relevant areas, and ensure compliance with HF policies.
- To lead and manage projects in line with best practice principles, so that they are delivered to specification.
- To work with the REAL Centre senior programmes, strategy & governance manager to monitor work, capacity and risks in their team, and feed into broader planning processes.
- To ensure that the REAL Centre's written outputs (reports, blogs, media comment pieces, journal articles, associated presentations and digital communications) are of a high standard, tailored to the audience and written in a way which achieves impact. You will be involved in directly drafting published outputs and in commenting on and quality assuring the work of others in the team.
- To directly line manage one or two economists, supporting them to deliver their objectives and develop.
- To engage with key policy and analytical stakeholders and partners – including government departments and arms-length bodies, NHS and social care representative bodies such as ADASS and the NHS Confederation, and think-tanks to understand their perspectives, gather intelligence, and to influence policy and research.
- To be a REAL Centre spokesperson on topics within your portfolio. This will include live and pre-recorded interviews for radio and TV, and interviews with print journalists.
- To present findings of our work to external audiences at conferences, exhibitions and other events. This may involve some travel, principally within the four countries of the UK.
- To be aware of and make use of research evidence and future developments, including by engaging with relevant academic economists and health services researchers.
- To work with research managers to commission research and modelling through the process from scoping, Invitation to Tender, overseeing researchers and ensuring that commissioned research is fit for purpose
- To contribute as a member of the REAL Centre's senior team to strategic management of the team.
- To ensure that the Foundation's commitment to social justice and responsiveness to cultural diversity is demonstrated in all activities the Senior Economist is involved in.

As with other staff at the Foundation, the postholder will be expected to contribute to corporate activities and initiatives, such as staff meetings, cross-Foundation leadership and development programmes and other corporate projects as necessary. The postholder will

similarly be expected to play a role in supporting and developing the REAL Centre team to enable it to improve its effectiveness.

The postholder will also be expected to show active initiative in developing their professional expertise, and to demonstrate commitment to the Health Foundation's key behaviours: Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion; Working Together; Achieving Impact and Discovering and Learning.

Person specification

Criteria	Assessment (CV/SS-Shortlist, T-Test, I-Interview)	E/D
Commitment to diversity and inclusion - An understanding of, commitment to, diversity and equal opportunities in employment and service delivery.	CV/SS, I	E
Working together - Collegiate with a proven ability to work across multiple teams successfully. A corporate approach, willing to contribute to further the objectives of the Foundation as a whole.	CV/SS, I	E
Achieving impact – An understanding of potential routes to impact e.g. different communication methods, and experience of supporting teams to track and describe the impact of their work.	CV/SS, I	E
Discovering and learning - Ability to grasp new areas of knowledge and develop understanding quickly to engage with work across the breadth of the REAL Centre.	CV/SS, I	E
A degree in economics, or related analytical discipline and an advanced degree (Masters or PhD) in a relevant discipline.	CV/SS	E
Knowledge of health and social care policy issues, and experience of working in the sector	CV/SS, I	D
Experience of designing at a senior level, undertaking and using policy analysis to inform public policy and achieve impact.	CV/SS, I	E
Experience of managing a team of economists or analysts which produces insightful and influential work, which meets the needs of stakeholders.	CV/SS, I	E
Experience in developing and motivating more junior colleagues.	CV/SS, I	
Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills. Understanding and experience of a range of analytical approaches and their application to policy analysis.	CV/SS, I, T	E
First-class performance in the use of quantitative techniques and methods and an in-depth knowledge of quantitative research methods and applications. Knowledge and experience of statistical programmes such as SAS, STATA or R and experience in interpreting statistical and econometric outputs.	CV/SS, I	E
Experience in overseeing and quality assuring complex analysis of large-linked data – including ensuring that the right analysis tools are used (e.g. programming for big data projects)	CV/SS, I	D
An understanding of data governance issues as well as data security.	CV/SS, I	E
Excellent formal and informal written and spoken communication skills. Ability to write concisely and with impact for a variety of audiences.	CV/SS, I, T	E

Ability to communicate with impact. Experience of communicating findings to academic and policy audiences, through drafting written papers or reports and giving oral presentations.	CV/SS, I	E
Strong project leadership and management skills. Able to manage multiple projects from the initiation process through to completion.	CV/SS, I	E
Ability to see the bigger picture, seeing connections between issues and pieces of work, and how they contribute to broad goals	CV/SS, I	E
Creativity, initiative, and can implement an ongoing, credible programme of work.	CV/SS, I	E
Able to build positive relationships with a wide range of internal colleagues, external stakeholders and partners to establish confidence and trust.	CV/SS, I	E