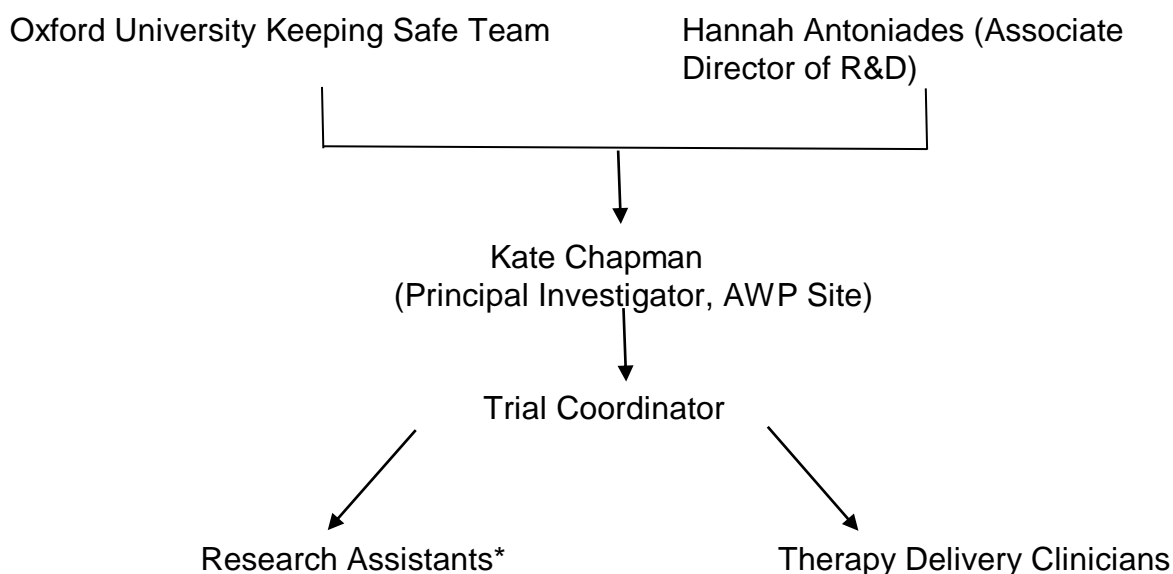


AVON & WILTSHIRE MENTAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP NHS TRUST

KEY LOCAL INFORMATION

Job Title:	Research Practitioner/Nurse/Assistant
Pay Band:	Band 5
Responsible to:	Trials Coordinator – Psychologist/Psychological Therapist
Base:	Bath NHS House / Blackberry Hill Hospital (to be decided at interview)
Hours:	Full Time – 37.5 hours per week

Organisational chart: (Keep simple i.e. immediate structure)



*This post

Key Local Information :

In this new NIHR-funded programme of research Professor Daniel Freeman and team at the University of Oxford have created a new six-month guided online programme for the treatment of persecutory delusions. The new programme is called Feeling Safer. It is an accessible and expanded version of the face-to-face therapy called Feeling Safe. Users can access Feeling Safer whenever they choose via smartphone/computer/or tablet. A range of

Continued...

mental health workers can support the delivery of the treatment over six months. Six face-to-face sessions will be reserved for a key task: going out with patients into everyday situations to relearn safety. By providing Feeling Safe in an accessible version for use across the NHS, we aim to achieve substantially improved outcomes for the large number of people with persecutory delusions who have not responded sufficiently to current treatment.

This is an exciting opportunity to join the research team that is evaluating *Feeling Safer*. A multi-centre randomised controlled trial treating NHS patients diagnosed with psychosis and with a current persecutory delusion will be undertaken to test the Feeling Safer treatment. Patients will be randomised to one of four conditions; (1) Feeling Safer in addition to treatment as usual, supported by peer support workers, (2) Feeling Safer in addition to treatment as usual, supported by assistant psychologists/graduate mental health workers, (3) Feeling Safer in addition to treatment as usual, supported by a clinical psychologist providing CBT therapy, (4) treatment as usual. Around 484 patients will participate. Each site, which will closely work together, will comprise established site leads, a clinical/counselling psychologist delivering CBT therapy, research assistants, a peer support worker, and a graduate mental health worker. The whole team will comprise over 40 people.

This post is to help recruit patients with psychosis into the trial and conduct the repeat assessments. It will provide excellent experience of engaging individuals with psychosis; conducting clinical assessments; working within NHS services; and clinical trials methodology. The post would suit individuals interested in going on to pursue a career in clinical psychology or clinical research.

The Research Assistants will have a central role in the trial, being responsible for research delivery of the Keeping Safe trial within the AWP. They will be accountable to the site principal investigator Dr Kate Chapman and the Trial Coordinator for AWP, with grant team support from Prof Daniel Freeman from the lead site: Oxford. The Research Assistants will work in AWP to support the recruitment of participants to the trial. The trusts cover large geographical distances, spanning 6 localities and 100 sites, and this role will support the trial to ensure patients across the spread of the Trust are offered the opportunity to take part.

Descriptions of development work for the Feeling Safer project can be found in these publications:

Freeman et al (2021). Comparison of a theoretically driven cognitive therapy (the Feeling Safe Programme) with befriending for the treatment of persistent persecutory delusions: a parallel, single-blind, randomised controlled trial. *The Lancet Psychiatry*, 8(8), 696-707.

Freeman, D. (2024). Understanding and Treating Persecutory Delusions. *Schizophrenia Bulletin*, sbae012.

Responsibilities

- To deliver research aspects of the trial including;
 - Pre-screening, screening and recruitment of patients with psychosis – this will involve speaking to referrers regularly, attending clinical team meetings, visiting community mental health teams and hospital wards. There are monthly recruitment targets
 - Completing eligibility screening assessments and seeking informed consent

- Arranging and carrying out assessments for the trials, on a range of measures at various time points.
- Set-up and close down of the trial
- To form excellent relationships with clinical teams in order to support recruitment of patients into the trial and provide co-ordinated care for patients receiving the sleep intervention.
- Produce regular reports on recruitment targets and process (including managing the recruitment database) and assessments.
- Travel across the large geographical area both to clinical teams and patient homes, which would be facilitated by having valid driving licence, and access to own or other independent means of transport.
- Good record-keeping and ensuring the site file is compliant with GCP, in line with trial and Trust protocols.
- Work to standard operational procedures for the trial will be expected.
- Attendance at supervision will be expected, and at appropriate research team meetings, including at the lead site, Oxford.
- You will need to work some irregular hours occasionally to fit with patient availability.
- Administrative duties related to the project, including regularly entering and checking data in the study databases.
- Other duties appropriate to the grade as directed.
- Work within the guidelines set out by the Data Protection Act, the Code of Ethics, and with full understanding of confidentiality issues.
- To comply with the Trust policies and procedures.