



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities



## Changing Futures Evaluation – Student Information Sheet

Qa Research is recruiting committed, resilient students to help carry out an evaluation of the Changing Futures programme for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Taking part in this project is a great chance to get unique, first hand experience of doing research that will influence government policy and make a real difference to the lives of people who are experiencing multiple disadvantage.

We'll provide you with training and support to undertake your role.

### Your role as an interviewer

- We need you to talk to people who may be experiencing a range of different challenging circumstances, or 'multiple disadvantages' which could include offending, domestic abuse, homelessness, mental health issues and substance misuse.
- You will travel with a team of experienced researchers to different areas of England to carry out quantitative research interviews using a questionnaire. You will need to be available for full days at a time and this may include an overnight stay depending on location.
- Interviews will be carried out within organisations or venues that support people with multiple disadvantage e.g. homeless shelters or mental health support charities. You will be booked in to attend venues ahead of time.
- You will always be accompanied by an experienced Qa researcher.
- Each interview should take 20-30 minutes to complete and the participant will receive a voucher as a thank you for their time.
- The fieldwork will take place between April and June 2022.
- The number of days you complete would depend on your availability but as a guide you need to be able to commit to 5 full days across the fieldwork period, or more if you're able, as last minute cover is sometimes needed (optional).

### What you will get in return

- £10 per hour pay, including travel time.

- Plus £40 for attending the half-day training session upon completion of your first day of interviewing.
- Travel and overnight stay expenses will be covered by Qa Research.
- Training on quantitative interviewing techniques, the Market Research Society's Code of Conduct and how to carry out face to face interviews with vulnerable populations, including safeguarding and emotional support procedures; delivered by experienced Qa researchers. We will be hold two training sessions on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March, you only need to attend on one day. Training will take place at Qa Research offices in York.
- Certification of your role as an interviewer to use as proof of your involvement in this key piece of research experience. We can also act as a reference for future roles.
- Student interviewers on previous projects have told us they really enjoyed taking part and found it gave them valuable experience for their future careers, in some cases helping them gain their 'dream' job' – whether in research, policy, social, or charity work.

#### **The Changing Futures programme:**

- Changing Futures is a 3 year, £64 million government programme aiming to improve outcomes for adults experiencing multiple disadvantage by delivering more joined-up services (e.g. local government and charities and communities working together)
- Changing Futures is being piloted in 15 areas of the UK, and there is a full evaluation going on (led by CFE, a research agency) to understand whether the approach is successful. Our job at Qa Research is to collect data from 6 areas who aren't receiving Changing Futures, to compare against data from areas that are.
- The data you collect will be used to give evidence on whether Changing Futures is successful and if it should be more widely rolled out.

#### **Am I right for the role?**

As this research is with people who might be in vulnerable circumstances and very challenging situations, we are looking for students who can demonstrate the following:

- An interest in developing research experience in the social/charity sector
- Willingness to travel
- Full DBS check or willingness to undergo DBS check
- Fluent English (equivalent to English as first language)
- Confidence and ability to engage and connect with people of different backgrounds/ circumstances
- Emotional resilience and maturity
- Reliable and dependable, team player

- Comfortable with challenging behaviour or personal accounts
- Ability to be empathetic, reassuring and calm
- Ability to remain non-judgmental, objective and unbiased
- Ability to set boundaries
- Strong verbal communication skills including active listening
- Enjoy challenges and demonstrate problem solving abilities
- Time management and strong organisational skills
- Accuracy and attention to detail when recording data

Whilst working on this project we will be in regular contact should you need any help or have any questions so you will be fully supported throughout the project. This includes emotional support surrounding any of the topics or situations.

### **Who are Qa Research?**

Qa Research is an independent full service social research agency based in York. For 30 years we have provided insight to a wide variety of Public and Private sector organisations such as the NHS and government. We also support academics to gather robust data for their evaluations and advise on survey design and methodological approach.

For this evaluation Qa has been commissioned to conduct interviews. More information on the work we do can be found at: <https://www.qaresearch.co.uk/>

### **How to apply**

If you would like to take part please visit the website below and complete the short application form.

We will consider applications received up until 18th March, however we will be interviewing on a first-come, first-served basis and welcome applications as soon as possible.

Suitable applicants will be invited to an informal interview via Microsoft Teams.

[www.qaresearch.co.uk/changingfutures/students](http://www.qaresearch.co.uk/changingfutures/students)

If you have any questions please do contact Georgina and Megan at Qa using the details below.

If you know any other students who would be interested in taking part please pass this information sheet on to them!

**In the meantime, if you have any questions don't hesitate to get in touch!**

**Georgina Culliford – Research Manager**

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