



Job title	Research Assistant	Job family and level	Research Level 4a
School/ Department	School of Sociology and Social Policy	Location	Based at UoN Campus or Remote

## Purpose of role

The post holder will work with Dr Shardia Briscoe-Palmer (PI) as part of a research project funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) funded research project on ***The Digitalisation of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare: Black Women's Inclusion and Exclusion in Prevention, Services and Care***. The aim of this project is to conduct a widespread community-led scoping exercise on Black women's intersectional experiences of being included or excluded in the digitalisation of British sexual and reproductive healthcare; including but not limited to sex, maternal health, HIV, menopause, menstruation and puberty. The project aims to contribute to existing research and narratives on health inequalities and digital exclusion amongst disadvantaged groups on the UK.

The research team is led by Dr Shardia Briscoe-Palmer, and includes colleagues from Queen Mary University London (Dr Sara Paparini of Applied Health Research; Dr Vanessa Apea Clinical Physician in Sexual Health and HIV Medicine); University Hospital Birmingham (Mandy Tyler, Community Partnership Manager; Jara Phatthey Lead Sexual Health Advisor); Positive East (Dr Renee West and Mark Santos, Executive Director).

Health inequalities amongst Black African and Black Caribbean communities in the UK are stark. Black people experience some of the worst healthcare outcomes in the UK, with a burden of inequalities wrapped in notions of racialised discrimination and historical prejudice (Health Inequalities Dashboard). Black people also have poor healthcare outcomes when targeting sexual and reproductive healthcare across the board (Public Health England (2021). These disparities are experienced in, but not limited to maternal health, sexually transmitted infections, contraception choices; puberty, menstruation and menopause, (Women and Equalities Committee 2023; Wayal, et al. 2020). Moreover, the transitional increase into digital approaches to healthcare delivery and services has witnessed a damning response by marginalised communities to be further excluded from assessing and engaging in this systematic change (Mothupi et al.2023). Thus, research addressing digital health disparities in Black African and Black Caribbean communities needs to seek intersectional responses using inclusive community participatory methodologies that can engage marginalised communities.

Our aim is to conduct a mixed-method mapping and scoping exercise on the inclusion and exclusion experiences of Black women's sexual and reproductive healthcare as a direct result of the transformation into digital approaches to prevention, services and care in the UK through community involvement.

We will;

1. Facilitate approximately 10 different types of involvement activities with approximately 140 Black women from community groups we work with or are part of.

2. Support involvement leads and community partners to use community focused methods to explore and map shared experiences for a co-produced research agenda to address the impact of digitalised sexual and reproductive healthcare on Black women.
3. Conduct an online and paper-based community survey to established similarities or themes in the experiences of Black women in digitalised sexual and reproductive healthcare
4. dedicate time for co-produced grant writing involving communities following learning from our involvement activities
5. Come together to review and reflect on responses to establish interventions to reduce barriers for Black women in the UK transition to digital healthcare.

	<b>Main responsibilities</b> (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	<b>% time per year</b>
1	<b>Theoretical engagement and development</b> To conduct literature and database searches and engage with and critique existing research and literature pertaining to race-related health inequalities, with a specific focus on sexual and reproductive health disparities; and digital inequalities, the experiences of minorities groups with healthcare providers.  To engage with the research team in the development of findings, theories and research design.	30%
2	<b>Data production and analyses</b> To help organise as required community involvement activities to be carried out by the PI and Involvement Leads.  To design, disseminate and analyse a survey questionnaire on experiences of Black women in digitalised sexual and reproductive healthcare  To contribute to qualitative data collection, involvement activities and analysis, as part of the team and individually.  To also be proactive in liaising with key partners and stakeholders in the partnership.	40%
3	<b>Writing and publication</b> To contribute to the production of research reports, publications and other relevant materials.	20%
4	<b>Research sustainability</b> To build relationships with internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding.  To form relationships for future collaborations To contribute ideas regarding future research developments and grant writing following completion of the project.	10%

## Person specification: RESEARCH ASSISTANT (Level 4a)

	Essential	Desirable
<b>Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Excellent oral and written communication skills with the ability produce theoretically informed work across disciplinary boundaries</li> <li>▪ Analytical ability to facilitate conceptual thinking, innovation and creativity</li> <li>▪ Ability to contribute to analyses of qualitative data</li> <li>▪ Ability to build relationships and collaborate with others; internally and externally.</li> <li>▪ Strong organisational skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Experience researching sensitive issues and/or demonstrable ability to engage with difficult topics</li> <li>▪ A track record of academic work and experience commensurate with career stage</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate a desire to further develop skills and knowledge of research methods and techniques.</li> </ul>
<b>Knowledge and experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Qualitative research experience</li> <li>▪ An understanding of debates and research relating to race-related health inequalities and digital transformations</li> <li>▪ Experience of community engagement practices, for research purposes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Experience of survey questionnaire research</li> <li>▪ Experience of health disparities and / or digital inequalities due to socially minorities identities.</li> </ul>
<b>Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Appropriate academic qualification in the social sciences, health sector or humanities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Appropriate academic qualification and/or working towards a PhD in a relevant discipline</li> </ul>



The University of Nottingham is focused on embedding equality, diversity and inclusion in all that we do. As part of this, we welcome a diverse population to join our work force and therefore encourage applicants from all communities, particularly those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

## Expectations and behaviours

The University has developed a clear set of core expectations and behaviours that our people should be demonstrating in their work, and as ambassadors of the University's strategy, vision and values. The following are essential to the role:

<b>Valuing people</b>	Is friendly, engaging and receptive, putting others at ease. Actively listens to others and goes out of way to ensure people feel valued, developed and supported.
<b>Taking ownership</b>	Is clear on what needs to be done encouraging others to take ownership. Takes action when required, being mindful of important aspects such as Health & Safety, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and other considerations.
<b>Forward thinking</b>	Drives the development, sharing and implementation of new ideas and improvements to support strategic objectives. Engages others in the improvement process.
<b>Professional pride</b>	Is professional in approach and style, setting an example to others; strives to demonstrate excellence through development of self, others and effective working practices.
<b>Always inclusive</b>	Builds effective working relationships, recognising and including the contribution of others; promotes inclusion and inclusive practices within own work area.

