Wellspring Settlement – "Communities in Focus: harnessing the potential of community-generated data"

Research Assistant – role details

Brief company overview including details of the business area/department where the research internship will take place	On 1 February 2020 Barton Hill Settlement and Wellspring Healthy Living Centre merged to form the new Wellspring Settlement. It is managed by a committee of mainly local people, providing a wide variety of services and is a key force for community development in East Bristol. Barton Hill Settlement has been a community hub for Barton Hill residents and visitors since it was set up 1911. Wellspring Healthy Living Centre was founded in 2004 by residents of Barton Hill in Bristol.
Company website/section of website relevant to research internship	www.bartonhillsettlement.org.uk www.wellspringhlc.org.uk
Number of research internship opportunities available	2
Objective of research internship	Wellspring Settlement (formerly Barton Hill Settlement and Wellspring Healthy Living Centre) operate a database to track their service users' interactions with the support programmes that have been run as part of Barton Hill Settlement. An entry in the database is created for each person who comes into contact with the Settlement's services. Multiple services/projects are run by the Settlement; each service/project comes with specific requirements concerning the monitoring data required by the funder. Due to the varying needs and funding streams of each project, the database is used in a variety of ways and the quality of the data kept on each user is inconsistent. Nevertheless, the database contains a wealth of information about users of the Settlement which, it is anticipated, can provide bottom-up detail about the attributes, needs and achievements of the local communities. The internships will form the first of a three-phase project based at Wellspring Settlement, the outcomes of which will be used to inform phases two and three. **Phase one:** 1. How do staff running different services/projects currently use the database? 2. What information does the database currently hold? 3. What functionality or outputs would database users like the database to achieve?

	Phase two: 4. How can this information be used to the benefit of Wellspring Settlement and the wider community? **Phase three:** 5. What are the possibilities and limitations of rolling-out the database across the city into other communities?
Overview of research internship role, tasks and responsibilities	We are looking for two undergraduate students who will work together as student researchers during phase one of this project. The student researchers will seek to answer the three questions in phase one (above) through: • Conducting desk-based research; • Interrogating the existing database and the information it holds; • Conducting interviews and informal conversations with database users. The student researchers will read funding reports and other relevant documents to help them understand the funding streams of the Settlement and its projects, and the outcomes that are being measured, in order to better understand the funding requirements that influence the way the database is used. The student researchers will work closely with Wellspring Settlement and database users to understand how the database is currently used at an organisational and individual level, as well as how they would like the database to be used in the future. The student researchers will pursue two lines of enquiry: • Conducting formal interviews with database users; • Having informal conversations with Wellspring Settlement. The interviews conducted by the student researchers will not only be used during this phase of the project, but will also be used during a later phase, when they will be coded and used in qualitative analysis. The student researchers will work with data currently stored in the database, alongside their desk-based and primary research. They will need to undertake a process of data normalisation to understand what information is currently held within the database and identify how this can be used to inform phase two of the project. **All research will be carried out in accordance with the University of Bristol's current guidelines for ensuring researcher and participant safety. This is likely to mean that interviews will be conducted online or by phone.**

Overview of support provided for research assistant	The student researchers will be supervised by the Research Associate for the project, Jack Nicholls, who will provide academic and research support. Morag McDermont, Professor of Socio-Legal Studies, will be the academic lead for the project. The student researchers will also work closely with a primary contact within Wellspring Settlement, Elaine Martin, who will help with understanding the Settlement, informing their lines of enquiry with regards to the Settlement's projects and database users.
Eligible students	Undergraduate students in the following schools: • School for Policy Studies; • Sociology, Politics and International Studies; • School of Education; • School of Economics, Finance and Management; • School of Law.
Relevant experience, skills and/or knowledge that would be relevant and any specific A-Level requirements	• Training and/or experience of qualitative research methods • Training and/or experience of using databases • Training and /or experience of quantitative research methods
Proposed start date	September – to be negotiated with successful applicants
Duration of role	200 hours
Proposed work pattern	Part-time during term-time with additional (full-time) hours during University vacation periods
Location	University of Bristol and Wellspring Settlement
Salary including details of any additional bursary that will be offered	£9.30/hr
Deadline for applications	Tuesday 10 August 2020, 12:00pm
Interview date	TBC w/c 7 September 2020

Professional Liaison Office
Faculty of Social Sciences & Law