# Academic Director of the Sussex Health and Care Research Partnership

The [Sussex Health and Care Research Partnership](https://www.bsms.ac.uk/research/support-and-governance/shcrp/sussex-health-and-care-research-partnership.aspx) (SHCRP) brings BSMS together with Sussex’s three universities, NHS, public health, public and communities and local authority partners across Sussex to focus on health and care research. Its purpose is to strengthen shared research infrastructure, capacity and collaboration and develop a distinctive profile of high-impact health and care research in Sussex. It has led the development of a system-wide strategy for health and care research “[Improving Lives Together Through Research](https://www.sussex.ics.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2025/04/Improving-Lives-Together-through-Research.pdf)” and brings all members of the partnership together to deliver the strategy’s ambitions.

The Academic Director of the SHCRP is responsible for strategic direction and oversight of the partnership’s work. S/he chair’s the SHCRP Executive group, reports to the Dean of BSMS and is accountable to the SHCRP Board for forward planning and delivery of the partnership’s work. The Academic Director is supported by the Head of the SHRCP and an executive team drawn from across the partnership representing university, secondary, primary and community care, mental health, public health and social care and public and community members.

The role is jointly funded by BSMS and University Hospitals Sussex and is open to all BSMS faculty who hold a clinical contract at University Hospitals Sussex.

## Assessment criteria

The academic director of the SHCRP is an experienced healthcare researcher working in the Sussex Integrated Care System.

They will have:

* A strong personal research track record
* Proven leadership and management skills, including experience in strategic planning, financial management, and performance management.
* Strong communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to build relationships and influence stakeholders
* Demonstrated ability to foster collaboration and partnership
* Commitment to growing health and care research capacity and capability and success for BSMS, its academic, NHS and local authority partners
* Knowledge of the healthcare and research landscape in Sussex and nationally, including relevant policies and regulations.
* Experience in translating research into practice.

## Role

The SHCRP director provides strategic leadership and oversight for the integration of research and healthcare practice in Sussex

## Responsibilities

### Strategic leadership

* Responsible for developing and implementing strategies to foster collaboration between the academic and health care sectors, translate research into practice and improve healthcare outcomes.
* Responsible for leading delivery of the SHCRP delivery plan towards achieving the strategic ambitions of improving lives together through research.

### Research

* Fostering a culture of research, ensuring community health and care needs drive research and facilitating the translation of research findings into practice.
* Supporting funding applications to support research delivery, infrastructure and training.
* Supporting development of research expertise and careers in the Sussex health and care workforce through the work of the Health and Care Research Training Hub.

### Collaboration and Partnership

* Building and maintaining strong relationships to grow research with NHS provider, local authority and academic partners across Sussex

### Performance management

* Establishing and monitoring key performance indicators to track success of the partnership and ensure accountability

### Financial

* Overseeing the development of a sustainable funding model for the partnership and managing allocation of resources to support the SHCRP’s activities

### Communication and Engagement

* Communicating the partnership’s work and impact to a wide range of audiences, across the system’s universities, NHS and social care providers, public health, voluntary partners and the wider public.
* Building strong relationships with NIHR regionally (e.g. through the Regional Research Delivery Network the Health Innovation Network and the Applied Research Network) and nationally to influence national policy and support research development in Sussex ICS and SHCRP.

## Key relationships

The role does not have direct line management of staff but maintains key relationships with:

* The SHCRP team including
  + The HCRP board and chair
  + Head of the SHCRP
  + Leads for acute, mental health, public health, public and communities, local authority and university sectors
  + Chair and members of the HCCP Public and Community Advisory Group
* Sussex Health and Care Research Training Hub
  + Co-director(s) and Integrated Academic Training Lead
* Sussex Health and Care
  + The Chief Medical Officer who chairs the HCRP board
  + Director of Clinical Outcomes and other key research contacts
* NHS Partner Research directors and responsible executives
  + University Hospitals Sussex NHS FT
  + Sussex Partnership NHS FT
  + other NHS providers
* The director and leadership of the Brighton and Sussex CTU
* Research leaders within BSMS via the School’s Research Executive
* The NIHR Southeast Regional Research Delivery Network via its Stakeholder Group
* The Kent Surrey and Sussex Health Innovation Network
* The Kent Surrey and Sussex Applied Research Collaboration
* Academic leadership at universities

## Period of Appointment

For three years, with the possibility of an extension. BSMS Dean will appraise the Director annually and confirm continuation in the role on an annual basis.

## Time Allocation

will be associated with 2PAs.

## Next steps

## If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Virginia Govoni [v.govoni@bsms.ac.uk](mailto:v.govoni@bsms.ac.uk), Head of SHCRP for a first conversation and to learn more about the role and commitment.

For applying, please write Virginia with a short email describing why you are interested in the role and how you think you meet the criteria for the role by 31st July 2025.

We envisage the role to commence from September/October 2025