APPOINTMENT OF TWO RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Post Title: **Research Assistant**

Project Title: **Healthy and Positive Ageing Initiative**

Reports to: Project Manager: Sinead Shannon and
Programme Analyst, Dr Sarah Gibney

Address; Healthy and Positive Ageing Initiative,
Department of Health, Hawkins House, Dublin 2.

Location: The post will be based in the Department of Health, Hawkins House, Dublin 2.

Post Status: **Fixed Term Contract; 12 months**.

Hours: 37.5 hours/week

Essential criteria; Masters level qualification in a social science, economics or health field or equivalent experience. Experience with quantitative analysis using statistical software.

Desirable criteria; Proficiency in the use of STATA and experience in the production of high quality publications. Interest in and experience of social and health policy issues, particularly ageing related issues.

Salary: Appointment will be made on the appropriate point of the IUA Level 1 Research Assistant salary scale in line with current Government pay policy

Application Procedure: Please send cover letter outlining your interest in this post with Curriculum Vitae to: **Sinead Shannon** at the above address **or** Sinead_shannon@health.gov.ie with: 'Research Assistant'' in the subject line by

5pm Friday 3 June.

Interviews are provisionally scheduled for the week commencing June 20th 2016. Applicants should signal their availability for interview in their cover letter.

Applicants must be legally entitled to work in Ireland.

For further information on the project, see www.hapai.net

POST DESCRIPTION

The Healthy and Positive Ageing Initiative is a collaborative project being led by the Department of Health with the HSE and Age Friendly Ireland (AFI) to develop evidence to measure progress towards healthy and positive ageing. The Initiative carried out the first ever survey across 20 local authority areas during 2015/16. A sample of 500 persons aged 55 and over have been interviewed in each of the 20 local authority areas.

The aim of the survey is to identify the areas in which additional change or action is required to promote healthy and positive ageing at a local level. The reports being developed will inform the development of strategies and action plans in each of the local Age Friendly Alliances throughout the country.

The post holder will primarily be responsible for cleaning and manipulating the Age Friendly Cities and Counties dataset and providing administrative, technical and research support to the Programme Analyst.

The successful candidate be familiar with the concepts and practice of multivariate analysis and have a strong interest in applying their quantitative research methodologies and statistical analysis skills to this significant data set.

While on the job training and support will be provided, the ideal candidate will be expected to work with minimal supervision.

The post holder will have the opportunity to present their research in a variety of national and international fora and can expect to contribute to the production and publication of national reports national reports, journal articles and peer reviewed academic journals

Additional responsibilities:

1. Events: Support the project in the communication and dissemination of results.

2. Enquiries: Act as a contact point for Project enquiries.

3. General tasks: Carry out other tasks as required to support project implementation and the Services for Older People section in the Department of Health.

4. Institutional Capacity Strengthening: Support capacity development in the Services for Older People section of the Department of Health.

5. Knowledge Management: Develop publications, reports, knowledge papers, articles, insights and experiences on related subjects to be shared with the project partners.

PERSON SPECIFICATION.

Competencies:

- Ideally have a Masters (or be in the final stages of same) in a relevant discipline (e.g. Social policy, Statistics, Economics, Health Economics, Public Health etc.) Candidates with substantial experience in relevant areas may also be considered.
- The candidate must be proficient in the use of STATA.
- A good knowledge and understanding of statistical methods.
- Knowledge of ageing and general social policy issues.

- An understanding of the role of research and data in policy development and implementation.

- Professional/academic/research experience in data analysis using STATA, SPSS, , and Excel.

- Experience in producing high quality reports and knowledge products (samples may be requested as reference).

- Strong administration and organisational skills with good attention to detail and ability to prioritise, plan and organise own workload.

Personal Skills:

- Excellent communication skills and track record of networking effectively and developing good working relationships.

- team player with an open and flexible attitude and ability to take collaborative and consultative approaches to resolving issues.

- Creative, professional, and able to take initiative.

Project Background

The Department of Health, together with the Atlantic Philanthropies, the HSE's Health and Wellbeing Division and Age Friendly Ireland have agreed on a joint programme to monitor and promote older people's health and wellbeing in Ireland. This programme, the Healthy and Positive Ageing Initiative (HaPAI), will use national statistics to provide quantitative support to the implementation and monitoring of policies in relation to ageing in general and the National Positive Ageing Strategy in particular.

The activities of the initiative include:

- Formulation of key national indicators of older people's Healthy and Positive Ageing.

- The establishment of a research fund to commission additional once-off research to fill identified gaps in existing data required to cover all indicators.

- Publication of a biennial 'State of the Nation's Older Persons' reports, topic reports, etc, linking the changes in older people's wellbeing to policy development.

- Cascading of national data to the county level, supplemented by local data collection, and compilation of County Reports in selected counties.