



**Sharland Foundation  
Developmental Disabilities  
ABA Research and Impact Network**



**making a difference  
to the lives of people with  
severe learning disabilities**

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Title of post: Research and Policy Internship**

**Responsible to: CBF Policy Lead**

Additional supervision provided from the Tizard Centre at the University of Kent

**Hours: 5 days per week (37.5 hours)**

**Based at: The Challenging Behaviour Foundation office, Chatham, Kent (5 min walk from train station)**

**Length of post: Fixed term for 12 months**

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation (CBF) is an independent registered charity that supports children, young people and adults with severe learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges and their families. We support, equip and empower families through our individual Family Support work, which informs our Strategic Influencing work to drive change nationally based on best practice evidence.

The Sharland Foundation Developmental Disabilities ABA Research and Impact Network (SF-DDARIN) is a network of like-minded research practitioners. The over-arching purpose of SF-DDARIN is to increase the reach and impact of behaviourally-based interventions for children and adults with learning disabilities (including people with learning disabilities who are autistic) to support their independence and increased quality of life.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

- Undertake research, impact, and influencing work on Positive Behavioural Support (PBS) drawing on the expertise of both SF-DDARIN and the CBF which meets objectives of both organisations
- To support the work of the PBS facilitation group of the SF-DDARIN
- To support PBS-related research and impact work of the SF-DARRIN Universities and develop and enhance their reputations, both internally and externally
- To support the CBF's wider work to influence change in national policy and implementation in the areas of PBS, reducing restrictive interventions and direct engagement with people with severe learning disabilities
- To support the Challenging Behaviour – National Strategy Group (CB-NSG) and the Research sub-group with PBS related projects

## **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Responsibilities will include working with the CBF Policy Lead and with the Tizard Centre to:

1. Support PBS-related research and impact activity within the SF-DDARIN (especially the SF-DDARIN PBS facilitation group), the CB-NSG research group, and the Tizard family carer research group including;
  - Undertake basic research and impact work, for example by preparing, setting up, conducting and recording the outcome of evaluations of interventions, developing questionnaires and conducting surveys
  - Conduct literature and database searches
  - Collect data and maintain data records
  - Assist in the preparation of research write-ups, conference presentations, and proposals for research funding
  - Contribute to research ethics proposals
  - Continue to update knowledge and develop skills
2. Co-ordination and administration
  - Administer the activities of the research groups across the SF-DDARIN, CBF and CB-NSG
  - Liaise with the SF-DDARIN project manager and team of researchers to ensure co-ordination of SF-DDARIN activities
  - Liaise and work in accordance with supervision guidance from SF-DDARIN, Post-Doctoral Researcher at Tizard Centre
  - Participate in research projects sponsored by other research groups within the CBF, CB-NSG and SF-DDARIN as appropriate
3. Updating the [PBS Academy website](#) and [CBF website](#) as appropriate
4. Supporting the work of the RRISC group (Reducing restrictive Interventions/Safeguarding children) including contributing to organising meetings, following up actions and providing evidence and case studies to influence policy
5. Contributing to other CBF projects as agreed with SF-DDARIN, this may include issuing and analysis of surveys, evaluation of CBF resources, identification of good practice case studies, supporting Policy Leads in influencing work e.g. through development of presentations for conferences and events
6. Ensuring regular communication with other members of the CBF team, including attendance at team meetings
7. Any other tasks as determined by the Line Manager in partnership with the Tizard Centre

This role requires a Basic Disclosure Check