

KERSLAKE FELLOWSHIP

“Access to good housing for many has been diminished, costs have increased and security has been reduced... By common consent the housing market is not working. But we are much less clear about the solutions. We are much more likely to take the right steps if we base our decisions on research and evidence.”

Lord Bob Kerslake, Housing Studies Association Autumn Lecture, October 2017

The late Lord Kerslake was a lifelong advocate for social justice and worked tirelessly in his career and in retirement to promote access to secure, affordable housing for all. At the time of his untimely passing he was Chair of the New Economics Foundation (NEF), the Peabody Trust and the Kerslake Commission on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping hosted by St Mungo's. These three organisations have come together to honour Bob by creating a Kerslake Fellowship to work on improving outcomes in housing and homelessness, and especially for social housing.

Employed at NEF for a two-year contract initially, this role will help develop policy and practice capable of delivering big shifts in housing policy that will result in genuinely affordable, high quality and secure homes for all. The Kerslake Fellow will produce high-quality research that will help build the evidence base in social housing and homelessness, generate recommendations for actions that will lead to better outcomes, and build relationships with key stakeholders that will help deliver policy change.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Research and policy

- Work with colleagues to identify timely and important research areas that are likely to influence policy and shape debate, with a core focus on social housing and homelessness.
- Identify and/or generate appropriate data that will help strengthen the evidence base for policy recommendations in this area.
- Produce high-quality, policy-relevant outputs – from research reports to policy briefings – that will influence and shape debate.
- Develop practical policy solutions that are likely to improve access to secure, affordable housing for all.

External engagement

- Effectively influence policymaking at local, regional and national level in relation to this programme area. This involves creating dialogue, building alliances across sectors and at different levels of influence and deploying an effective advocacy strategy.
- Help build and maintain a network of experts, practitioners, and partners to support work on housing and homelessness.
- Work with NEF colleagues and others to make sure that communities' experiences and voices help shape policy proposals and communication strategies.
- Work closely with Kerslake Fellowship partners to identify research priorities, draw out evidence and stories from their operations that may help influence policy, and feedback policy insights to help shape their work.

- Build and maintain a personal profile as a respected commentator on social housing and homelessness, including through regular articles, blogs and other outputs that will raise the profile of the issues they are working on.
- Help organise events as appropriate.

Management and delivery

- Develop and deliver research projects, and oversee the project work of others where appropriate, critically evaluating data and information, developing analysis and policy recommendations, and producing high-quality outputs.
- Work with relevant internal and external partners to deliver projects on time and budget, including managing budgets, work plan and project documentation, and producing reports to funders.
- Provide line management and support to Assistant Researchers and other members of the team, as required.

Community engagement

- Provide direct technical support to community groups, local and regional stakeholders, to help them develop innovative project ideas that can support transformative change in the housing system.
- Where appropriate, design projects to work with people who have been adversely affected by housing inequality or homelessness, and draw on the findings of colleagues who use a mixture of methods to support communities to make their voices heard.

Team working

- Support colleagues in generating ideas for the programme, write funding proposals, and identify new opportunities, linked to this programme area.
- Support others to develop high-quality project proposals that offer insightful, timely and unique research, including accurate costing and bearing in mind likely funding sources.
- Help senior staff and colleagues with briefings and drafting on housing and homelessness issues.
- Contribute to the delivery of wider NEF strategic objectives and play an active role as a member of the NEF team.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential aspects are shown in bold. Aspects not in bold are desirable but not essential.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

- **A solid understanding of the housing sector, and the challenges and opportunities it faces.**
- A degree in a related subject area.

KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE

- **Three to five years' experience in planning, developing and managing multi-stakeholder projects and/or campaigns.**
- **A proven track record in effective stakeholder engagement and influencing policy and advocacy.**
- **Experience of developing policy recommendations and liaising with policy makers, in particular in a UK context.**
- Quantitative research and analytic skills.
- Experience of organising events and facilitating workshops.
- Experience of fundraising at programme level.
- **An understanding of public policymaking in government, the wider policy making community, and how to effect change in policy making and practice.**

SKILLS & ATTRIBUTES

- **Excellent interpersonal skills; the ability to deal with people at all levels, internally and externally, in a confident and professional manner.**
- **Excellent written communication skills and the ability to write cogently for a wide variety of audiences and in a wide variety of formats.**
- The ability to manage junior research staff effectively and to work collaboratively with other senior research staff.
- **The ability to work independently with minimal supervision to prioritise a busy workload, be pro-active and use own initiative**
- **Excellent and demonstrable organisational and administrative skills, such as those required to support in logistical tasks and the organisation of events.**
- Experience working with community groups on community-led development.
- Excellent bid writing and editing skills.
- Experience of line management.
- Experience of dealing with the media.

MOTIVATION

- **Commitment to building the new, environmentally sustainable economy with redistribution of power and resources at its core.**
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