

## Recruitment Information for Collaborative PhD Studentship

QUB supervisors: Dr Claire Kerr, School of Nursing and Midwifery (SoNM)  
Dr Bronagh Byrne, School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work (SSESW)  
Dr Fiona Lynn, SoNM  
Dr Karen McConnell, SoNM

Charity Partner: Mae Murray Foundation  
Alix Crawford (Chairperson)  
Kyleigh Lough (Operations Manager)

**Title:** Social inclusion for children and young people with complex disabilities

**Background:** Social inclusion is defined by the World Health Organisation as “the process of improving the terms of participation in society, particularly for people who are disadvantaged, through enhancing opportunities, access to resources, voice and respect for rights”. Children and young people with disabilities have been recognised as being particularly at risk of social exclusion. The Mae Murray Foundation is a Northern Ireland charity that strives for true participation for all in leisure and social settings, regardless of age or ability. This project has been co-created with the Mae Murray Foundation and will underpin their work in social inclusion.

### Objectives:

1. Understand the meaning of social inclusion from the perspectives of children and young people with complex disabilities who live in Northern Ireland.
2. Understand how social inclusion is understood by other stakeholders including parents/carers of children and young people with complex disabilities, their siblings and wider family circle, able-bodied children and young people, and agencies that provide community-based services (such as sport, recreation and leisure activities).
3. Conduct an evidence synthesis and economic evaluation of shared social care for young people with complex disability.

**Methods:** Sequential exploratory mixed methods. Firstly, semi-structured interviews will be conducted using participatory methods. Development of interview topic guides will be led by the Mae Murray Foundation and a young person’s advisory group, convened as part of the study. Data will be analysed using framework analysis and findings used to inform the scope of the subsequent evidence synthesis and economic evaluation.

**Expected outcomes:** Report to charity detailing stakeholder perspectives on social inclusion of children and young people with complex disabilities that will inform service development; evidence synthesis and economic evaluation of shared social care.

**Additional Information:** The successful applicant will have access to a supportive PhD training environment within the SoNM with additional academic input from SSESW and the Centre for Evidence and Social Innovation. The student will undertake a minimum of three month’s placement with the Mae Murray Foundation. This enhanced training experience will enable the student to engage directly with knowledge users and end beneficiaries of this project. The placement will provide opportunities for the student to engage with the community and voluntary sector and gain experience of different parts of the Mae Murray Foundation’s operations.

**Student eligibility:** The studentships will have the normal conditions for Department for the Economy awards. Student eligibility criteria for DfE-funded studentships can be accessed [here](#).

**Duration and funding:** The studentship will cover maintenance and fees for a maximum of three years.

For further information please contact Dr Claire Kerr at [c.kerr@qub.ac.uk](mailto:c.kerr@qub.ac.uk)