

What Works Centre for Children's Social Care

e-Newsletter No 4

18 April 2018

Seeking Founding Chair for What Works Centre

Applications are now open for the role of Founding Chair. The successful candidate will be an established leader, with a deep commitment to improving outcomes for children and young people, and an understanding of our context. The Founding Chair will guide the development of the Centre's initial strategy, build the board and the executive team, and bring into being the independent and influential What Works Centre.

For details, visit the [Gatenby Sanderson](#) (Please note the link has been removed as the closing date has now passed). **Closing date: 4 May 2018.**

Children and young people's views

Over 50 children and young people aged 13 to 24 applied to join the Centre's Children and Young People's Panel. The first panel meeting was attended by 20 young people with a range of experiences of social care, including having been on child protection or child in need plans, young people currently in care and care leavers. They shared their experience of social care and their views on what social workers need to learn through a series of images that they created on the day. You can view a slideshow, or download a PDF of the images [here](#).

Lucy Milich, children's practice development manager at SCIE, who supports the panel, outlines some of the key messages from the first meeting in her blog.

Key messages from young people included:

- Get to know us - we are more than a name on a file
- Listen to us and help us be in control of our own lives
- Be ambitious and aspirational on our behalf
- Recognise that we build up trust and relationships with particular people – so changes matter to us
- Be honest about what is happening, and what you can and cannot do

- Don't make a promise that you can't keep
- Don't judge us for being in care or when we don't succeed - we need support and encouragement
- Give us different ways to share our views

Read Lucy's blog: [The importance of pizza and co-production](#)

Practitioners' panel: Blog

Our practitioners' panel - including principal social workers, lead practitioners, frontline social workers, and voluntary sector practitioners from across the country - met for the first time in April.

Ryan Wise, Advanced Social Work Practitioner, London Borough of Newham, shares his views on the discussion in his blog.

"Panel members strongly felt that the centre needs to be mindful not to reinvent the wheel but to offer something which can lead to change in the system. As a group, we spoke about research and evidence being on offer in our organisations – this is accessible for practitioners but there are barriers. These are partly due to time – as is well known - but after more discussion it was clear that this is also linked to implementation and the culture around evidence informed practice in organisations."

Read Ryan's blog: [Exciting times ahead for children's social care](#)

Coming soon...

We will shortly be contacting all directors of children's services about contributing to research into how to safely reduce the need for children to enter care, and how to test approaches to accessing and using evidence. We are also developing ways of working with families through existing networks. Please encourage your colleagues to sign up for regular What Works Centre updates. [Sign up to receive updates here.](#)

Please do get in touch if you have any questions: wwccsc@nesta.org.uk