

What Works Centre for Children's Social Care

e-Newsletter No 2

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Many thanks for your interest in the development of the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care, and welcome to the second update from the Development Team.

Progress has been rapid since our last update in November.

We have been engaging with the sector to find out what you really need and want from the future Centre, and reviewing the evidence, research and policy landscapes.

As well as a series of one-to-one meetings with key national stakeholders, we have also:

- held two Practitioners' Events with over 100 enthusiastic delegates. Another event is being held in Bristol tomorrow (18 January) – with the final event on 29 January in Coventry. There are still a few places left for the Coventry event.
- worked with 11 local authorities to map and develop a deep understanding of social work practice, including how social workers, their managers and colleagues operate, and what their information, evidence and data needs are in order to improve practice and outcomes.

We will be sharing some initial insights from this work very shortly through a series of blogs, so keep a look out for the next edition of this bulletin.

Practitioners' Panel: Applications welcome

We are looking for a range of members (8 to 10) with good knowledge and practical experience of children's social care to join our Practitioners' Panel. The purpose of the Panel is to enable us to draw on insight from frontline practice as we develop the Centre.

We are seeking children's social care:

- front line practitioners
- team leaders and practice supervisors
- advanced practitioners
- staff involved in local workforce development or training
- practitioners at the interface between children's social care and other agencies (eg. social workers in schools and hospitals).

This is a great opportunity to influence the future Centre – so please share this information with colleagues who may be interested.

Closing date for applications: **5pm Monday 29 January 2018**. (Link to booking form removed as applications are now closed)

Children and Young People's Panel

Understanding what works well from children's and young people's perspectives, plus their views and experiences of children's social care is critical to the design of the future Centre.

Work is underway to establish a panel of approximately 20 children and young people to share and contribute to its development. The Panel is being set up with support from SCIE and members will:

- have experience of children's social care and/or social work, for example:
 - having a social worker (for example, being on a child protection plan)
 - being in care
 - being a care leaver
 - getting help from a social worker because of a learning or physical disability
- be between the ages of 13-25 years old.

Due to the age group, recruitment is being managed via SCIE's extensive list of contacts with children and young people, and practitioners who work with them, rather than through open recruitment. We have the capacity to work with a limited number of existing groups that may not always be heard. If you work with one of these groups (e.g. refugees or children and young people with learning disabilities) and would like to be considered for potential involvement and a visit to your group, please email youngpeople@scie.org.uk.

Research Partner – Cardiff University

The Department for Education has awarded the contract of Research Partner for the What Works Centre to Cardiff University. The Development Team is working closely with Cardiff University to develop the research agenda for the future Centre.

Once again, thank you for your interest in this important development for the children's sector. And please encourage colleagues to [register for this update](#).