

What Works Centre for Children's Social Care

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Call for new partners to deliver Change Projects

Last week we invited local authorities and children's services trusts to be partners in a new programme that aims to support and evaluate transformative change programmes in children's social care. The programme will focus on moving services closer to children and families, and funding is available for local authorities and children's services trusts to work with the Centre to test two initial projects. One project will explore social workers in schools, and the other will look at empowering social workers to reduce the need for care by devolving budgets to directly support families.

Applications are being sought from local authorities or children's services trusts - either bidding on their own or in collaboration with third sector organisations. A total of up to £2m will be allocated to partners across the two projects. This funding, provided by the Department for Education, will go directly to local authorities and children's services trusts. Successful applicants will need to demonstrate that they have effective measures in place to ensure it will be managed and monitored responsibly in order to improve the services children and young people receive.

Sir Alan Wood, Chair of the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care said: "The Change Programme aims to move services and decision-making closer to families. We are calling for Partners to test two ways of doing this: one will focus on social workers based in schools, while the other will devolve decision-making about how to help families to social workers themselves. Both projects aim to support what is best about great social work by encouraging partnership with families, creativity and passion."

Donald Forrester, Research Director for the Centre added: "One of the exciting things about the What Works Centre is that it is about creating change and trying out new things. The Change Programme is at the heart of this – with a focus on getting services for children and families closer to where they are needed."

The deadline for applications is midday 31 October 2018 and the Centre will be hosting a webinar for potential applicants on Monday 15 October. Applicants can register for the webinar by emailing wwccsc@nesta.org.uk.

For more information visit the [Centre website](#).

WWC in the community

The What Works team attended the Community Care Live conference last week and hosted a session for delegates to find out more about the Centre. Chair, Sir Alan Wood announced the above Change Programme call and spoke of some of the exciting work from across the Centre, while Anna Bacchoo, SCIE Practice Development Manager for the Centre, described the work the Centre has been doing to develop new tools and services for embedding evidence in practice across the sector. Isabel Vanderheeren, Transformation Lead, Children's Services, at Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council provided a case study looking at the work that is being done in her authority to help organisations develop diagnostic tools for assessing how evidence is used in their teams.

Anna said of the event: "CCL was a fantastic opportunity to continue the conversation about evidence with like-minded practitioners. It was so encouraging to see such enthusiasm for the Centre's goals and really interesting to hear from colleagues about evidence in the broadest sense – not just from research but also the evidence we generate in our organisations, which can also provide invaluable insights into what works for children and their families."

The session was posted live on twitter but you can still watch the recording [here](#).

Parent and kinship group meets for first time

We held our first parent and kinship carer event on 19 September which looked at how families can help in the decision making, development and governance of the Centre. Ryan Wise, Children's Practice Development Manager for SCIE hosted the event and shares highlights in his [latest blog](#).

Keep on tweeting!

We're fast approaching 2,500 followers on Twitter, so thanks for all the follows! Lots of you got in touch following our recent Change Programme announcement with your thoughts and ideas on the two proposals.

We also had a great response to the invitation to our practitioner event on the 16 October at SCIE's offices in London, please [tweet us](#) if you'd like to come along.