

Change Programme Partner Applications: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care?

The What Works Centre for Children's Social Care aims to achieve better outcomes for children, young people and families by helping practitioners and decision makers across the children's social care sector to understand and use the best possible evidence. We will generate evidence where it is found to be lacking, improve its accessibility and relevance to the practice community, and support practice leaders to use it well in their organisations.

Who are the development team behind the Centre?

Commissioned by the Department for Education, the Centre is being established by a Development Team, led by [Nesta's Alliance for Useful Evidence](#), the [Social Care Institute for Excellence](#), [FutureGov](#) and [Traversum](#). The Centre's research partner, is the [CASCADE Centre for Children's Social Care at Cardiff University](#). Further information about who is involved can be found on the [What Works Centre for Children's Social Care website](#).

What is the Change Projects programme and what projects will it focus on?

The What Works Centre has three areas of work. One is research and reviews of existing evidence. The second is supporting the use of high quality evidence across the sector. The third is the Change Programme – funded projects aimed at supporting substantive changes in the delivery of services that we can evaluate and learn from. The first projects in the Change Programme focus on moving services closer to families and communities. One will do this through devolved budgets and decision-making for workers. The other will base social workers in schools. We will work with local authorities and / or children's services trusts on two projects.

What is the role of successful partners?

In its initial phase, Change Programme partners will work on a change project in one or both of the following areas:

1. School-based Social Workers
2. Empowering Social Workers to Reduce the Need for Care

Further information on each area can be found in the [application info pack](#).

How much funding is available?

We envisage each project being funded in the region of £400-600,000. However, this is purely indicative. We are open to bids for larger or smaller amounts, though in each case the rationale would need to be clear and compelling.

Can we apply to deliver more than one project?

We welcome applications to take part in both projects. However, the applicant will need to show an exceptional ability to manage two complex projects (and associated evaluations) at the same time. We expect that most local authorities and / or children's services trusts will only have capacity to work on one project at a time. Applying for both projects will not increase or decrease the chance of being selected for one of them.

How many organisations will be selected to be a partner?

The number of successful applicants will depend on the quality and quantity of applications we receive.

Our organisation was a 'Wave 1' partner, can we apply to be a 'Change Programme' partner?

Yes, we welcome applications from any local authority and / or children's services trusts.

Is priority given to those organisations who were 'Wave 1' partners?

No, selection will be based on an assessment of the applicant's capacity to deliver the project objectives.

What are you looking for in applications?

Full details are set out in the [application pack](#).

Applications will require:

- A clearly described plan for delivering the objectives, including a logic model as described in the application pack explaining how the service will achieve our identified key outcomes
- Proof that you can deliver to the tight timescale we have
- Commitment to full participation in the evaluation
- Evidence of creativity and passion in delivering excellent services for children and their families, proven strong senior leadership and an existing practice focus on keeping families together with some evidence of success

We will also look to ensure that overall, we are working with a varied group of local authorities and / or Children's Services Trusts.

I wish to find out more about becoming a partner, who do I contact?

We will be holding a webinar on the 15th October 2018 for interested authorities. To register your interest or should you or your team wish to discuss your application before submission, please contact [CASCADE, Cardiff University](#).

Telephone: 02922510943

Email: wwc-cascade@cardiff.ac.uk

How much time and financial resource is involved in becoming a partner?

Funds are provided for the delivery of the projects. We are keen that this funding is focused on delivery to children and their families. We are aware that setting up such projects will require the time of managers and potentially other resources. We are keen that applicants seek to keep such costs to a minimum. Value for money and commitment to the project, as well as how realistic plans are, will all be assessed in the selection process.

If we were to be successful, who would we be working with?

You would be working with a team from the Centre's research partner, [CASCADE Centre for Children's Social Care at Cardiff University](#).