

what works
centre for

**CHILDREN'S
SOCIAL
CARE**

What Works Centre for Children's Social Care e-Newsletter

No 7 – 24 July 2018

21 local partners announced

We are delighted to say that, following a great response to our call for wave one partners, we will be working with 21 local authorities and trusts during these early stages of our work to December 2018.

These initial partners will work with the Centre to:

- co-design and test products and services that the Centre may deliver to help implement evidence
- generate new evidence by identifying promising interventions for more detailed evaluation
- provide advice and support to other partners.

[Read the press release about the local partners, including quotes from a range of those partners](#)

Follow the story on twitter at [@WhatWorksCSC](#)

Speaking about the partnerships, Sir Alan Wood, recently-appointed Founding Chair of the Centre, said:

"We are delighted that local authorities and trusts have shown such a high level of interest in working with the Centre. We know that to be effective, the Centre needs to remain close to the ground. These initial partnerships will help and support local leaders and practitioners to ensure that we most effectively meet the needs of children and families."

[View Sir Alan's vlog and read his blog](#)

Co-design and test products and services

We had such a great response to our call for partners, that we have expanded this work to include ten 'wave one' local authorities to develop and test effective tools and services that the Centre may deliver. We are taking an exploratory approach. So if the work indicates that our initial proposals are promising we will explore them further. If they do not, we will adapt our proposals and redirect our focus. We want to learn quickly, and move on. This work is being supported by a further seven local authorities and trusts (known as reference partners) who will provide insights and advice, during the preliminary stages of this work, based on their own experiences.

Generate new evidence

The Centre – through its Research Partner CASCADE at Cardiff University – is working with six local authorities and trusts to help develop work on the initial research themes. The aims of this first wave of activity are to develop insights into the kinds of interventions already being used, and to explore new ideas that could be tested. Later this year, the Centre will have devised a number of interventions and ideas that it will then help to roll out and evaluate.

Wave one partners – who is doing what?

The table below summarises who we are working with and on what topics.

[Find out more about the partners on the What Works Centre website](#)

[Download a summary of our work with partners](#)

Local authority/trust	Co-designing and testing products or services	Generating evidence proposals: research themes
1. Bath and North East Somerset Council		The front door (initial response to safeguarding concerns)
2. Birmingham Children's Trust		Workforce well-being
3. Bracknell Forest Borough Council	Digital tools for more effective use of data	
4. City of Bradford Metropolitan Borough Council	Digital tools for more effective use of data	
5. Bristol City Council	Evidence masterclasses	Safely reducing the need

Local authority/trust	Co-designing and testing products or services	Generating evidence proposals: research themes
		for children to enter care
6. Buckinghamshire County Council	Evidence masterclasses	
7. Metropolitan Borough of Calderdale	Evidence masterclasses	
8. Cambridgeshire County Council	Peer to peer networking	Effective supervision and decision-making
9. Central Bedfordshire Council		Effective supervision and decision-making
10. Coventry City Council	Online evidence store	
11. Doncaster Children's Services Trust	Reference partner - Diagnostic tool to assess an organisation's use of evidence	
12. Royal Borough of Greenwich	Reference partner - Diagnostic tool to assess an organisation's use of evidence	
13. Hartlepool Borough Council		Safely reducing the need for children to enter care
14. Leeds City Council	Reference partner - Diagnostic tool to assess an organisation's use of evidence	
15. Newcastle City Council	Reference partner - Digital tools for more effective use of data	
16. Oxfordshire County Council	Reference partner - Diagnostic tool to assess an organisation's use of evidence	
17. Surrey County Council	Reference partner - Digital tools for more effective use of data	
18. Three boroughs: Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea	Reference partner - Diagnostic tool to assess an organisation's use of	

Local authority/trust	Co-designing and testing products or services	Generating evidence proposals: research themes
and Westminster	evidence	
19. Metropolitan Borough of Walsall	Diagnostic tool to assess an organisation's use of evidence	
20. West Sussex County Council	Online evidence store	
21. Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council	Self-evaluation tool	

Our partners' views

Several of our partners have shared their views on why they are working with us.

[Read partners' quotes on our press release.](#)

They will be sharing their insights and learning through a series of blogs and vlogs over the coming weeks. Here are the first two.

"We feel proud in Walsall to have been chosen by the What Works Centre to develop a pioneering partnership in becoming an Evidence Informed Organisation."

[Read the blog by Cllr Tim Wilson, Portfolio Holder for Children's and Health and Wellbeing, Metropolitan Borough of Walsall](#)

"We see being a first wave partner with the What Works Centre as a tremendous opportunity to explore new ideas that can be tested, in order to deliver better outcomes for children and be more effective in our practice."

[Watch the vlog by Alastair Gibbons, Director of Operations, Birmingham Children's Trust](#)

A call for a second wave of partners will be announced later in the year.