Delivering What Works: Transitioning to a What Works Centre Approach

Jonathan Breckon,
Director, Alliance for Useful Evidence
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• UK What Works Centre for Children’s Social Care
• EPPI Centre, University of London
• US What Works Clearing House
• NICE Collaborative
• DEFRA scoping WW Centre
• DWP Internal WW Centre
• ESRC Centre for Evidence-based Policy
• Australian Institute of Family Studies
• Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University
• Center for State Welfare Data, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
• Oxford Migration Observatory
• Learning disabilities Observatory
• Wales Observatory on Human Rights of Children and Young People
• Third Sector Research Centre
• N8 Research Policing Partnership
• CELCIS, University of Strathclyde
• Research in Practice
• Project Oracle
• Education Data Lab
• Justice Data Lab

UK What Works (WW) Centres:
• Centre for Ageing Better
• Early Intervention Foundation
• Education Endowment Foundation
• NICE
• Wales Centre for Public Policy
• What Works Scotland
• What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth
• What Works Wellbeing
• What Works Centre for Crime Reduction
1. Mobilize your knowledge
“If you build it, they will [NOT] come”
What Works Centre for Children’s Social Care
Engagement with 77 local authorities:

- Practice insights research
- Site visits
- 10 ‘change’ projects
- 6 Prototypes in 12 local authorities
## What are we prototyping?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Promising approach</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Partner LAs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helping children's services directorates become more evidence-minded</td>
<td>Using a diagnostic tool to enable LAs to assess how well they are using evidence to inform operations and practice with children and families</td>
<td>Walsall, Greenwich; Doncaster, Leeds and Oxfordshire</td>
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<td>DIY evaluation tool</td>
<td>To enable local authorities to undertake their own evaluations of projects, by developing a self-evaluation tool</td>
<td>Wigan</td>
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<td>Helping children's services better use data</td>
<td>Helping local authorities draw richer insights from their existing data sources</td>
<td>Bracknell Forest; Bradford, Newcastle, Surrey</td>
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<td>Evidence store</td>
<td>Making sure the evidence we produce is accessible to CSW professionals</td>
<td>Coventry and West Sussex</td>
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<td>Peer-to-peer Networking</td>
<td>Supporting CSW professionals to network with each other, and to use each other's expertise</td>
<td>Cambridgeshire</td>
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<td>Evidence Masterclasses</td>
<td>Helping local authorities develop their skills in using evidence</td>
<td>Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Calderdale</td>
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2. Use the best evidence
Not enough evidence to synthesise?
3. Find sustainable funding
Incubator: phases to creating the Centre

Phase 1: Gestation
2017-18

Phase 2: Incubation
2018-20

Phase 3: Independence
2020 onwards

Development Team
WWC

Developmennt Team
WWC

WWC
4. Avoid academic capture
ESRC UK Centre for Evidence Based Policy and Practice

The proposal is to extend for a further twelve months the ESRC’s initial investment in creating the ESRC UK Centre for Evidence Based Policy and Practice. Established as a research resource, the Centre works to develop a cohesive constituency of interest in the more effective utilisation of the existing body of social research by government and non-governmental bodies, specifically through identifying and retrieving that research, and developing proven routines for reviewing it and communicating its findings. Much of the Centre’s work is promotional, and particular attention will be given, if this application is successful, to international promotion. The Centre also devotes considerable attention to training researchers and research users in the specific disciplines and techniques of ‘Evidence for Policy’. The Centre is located at the hub of an ESRC-funded network, and a primary task is to support the other grant-holders (the Nodes) in their work.

Developing evidence-based practice in the professions
Author: Mary Phillips Date: 16 August 2006 Working paper

Continuing professional development and evidence-informed practice
Author: Mary Phillips Date: 16 August 2006 Working paper
5. Hire brilliant staff
5 lessons

1. Prioritise Knowledge mobilisation
2. Use the best evidence
3. Find sustainable funding
4. Avoid academic capture
5. Hire brilliant staff
We champion the smarter use of evidence in social policy and practice