

CICADA Briefing - The What Works Centre

18th January 2018

Today I attended a practitioner's event in the South West looking at the development of the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care. This is a new national project, commissioned by the Department for Education, to foster evidence-informed practice in the sector in England. The development team started work on developing the centre in October 2017 and have a **target to establish the centre by summer 2020.**

Once developed, the Centre will develop a **strong evidence base around effective interventions and practice systems in children's social care.** The Centre will target children's social work practitioners, but its broader audience will include all practitioners and decision-makers working within children's social care, including those in working in community settings, foster care, residential homes, healthcare, commissioning roles, policing and policymakers.

Today's event was attended by Social Workers, commissioners, independent care providers, IROs, freelance social care experts, family support workers, researchers, service managers and students.

Round table sessions explored what information and evidence those working in the sector want and how best to make this information accessible. **One primary aim of the centre is to provide evidence based information that can be used to inform working protocols, strategies and commissioning practice so that this improves outcomes for children and their families.**

The development team are currently recruiting to their practitioner's panel and are keen to hear how practitioners may like to be involved with the development of the centre.

To keep informed of the development of the centre:

<https://www.nesta.org.uk/project/what-works-for-children>

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www.cicadaservices.co.uk