

Open call: WW-CSC Panel of Evaluators

**Open call to join the What Works for Children's Social Care's
Panel of Evaluators.**

What Works for Children's Social Care

WW-CSC Panel of Evaluators

Deadline for submissions: 12PM, Monday March 23rd 2020

1. Background to What Works for Children's Social Care

What Works for Children's Social Care (WW-CSC) is an initiative that seeks better outcomes for children, young people and families by bringing the best available evidence to practitioners and other decision makers across the children's social care sector. We will generate evidence where it is found to be lacking, improve its accessibility and relevance to the practice community, and support practice leaders (e.g. Principal Social Workers, Heads of Service, Assistant Directors and Directors) to create the conditions for more evidence-informed practice in their organisations.

We commission research a wide range of research, including systematic reviews, qualitative and pilot research, randomised controlled trials, and quasi-experimental evaluations.

More information about What Works for Children's Social Care can be found at <https://whatworks-csc.org.uk/>

The WW-CSC was formerly part of Nesta during its incubation phase but will, in April 2020, become an independent charity.

More information about Nesta can be found at www.nesta.org.uk

2. Background to the Project

As we grow, we plan to continue supporting research into a wide range of interventions and practices, using a variety of research methodologies. As we continue to fund more projects, we have taken the decision to re-open our panel of evaluators to admit more member organisations.

We hope to recruit organisations to join our existing evaluators that demonstrate a wide range of interests and expertise in the evaluation of children's social care programmes and interventions.

Individual organisations will not be expected to work in all of these methodologies, however the Panel will ideally reflect all of the following expertise:

- Impact evaluation in children's social care, education or Local Government
- Randomised controlled trial design and analysis
- Implementation and process evaluation

- Primary data collection
- Quasi-experimental methods, including difference in differences
- Measurement, instrument development and validation, and psychometrics
- Economic evaluation

3. What is expected of evaluators

WW-CSC plans to fund an increasing number of local authorities and other organisations to deliver interventions that aim to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families. Alongside this, we will generally look to appoint independent evaluators to provide rigorous evaluation of the implementation, process, cost and impact of these interventions.

Organisations joining this Panel will be eligible to apply to deliver these independent evaluations commissioned by WW-CSC.

We will run a short competition for each project, and evaluators on the Panel will be expected to complete a short proposal to apply. This will include evaluation methodology of choice, key personnel and budget. Applications will be reviewed by WW-CSC team and where required, members of our Evaluation Advisory Panel. The selected evaluator will work with WW-CSC and the delivery organisation to refine the evaluation design.

Evaluators will be responsible for the implementation of all parts of the programme essential to evaluation, including protocolisation, data collection, randomisation (where appropriate), and coordinating and conducting qualitative research and field work. Finally, evaluators will produce interim and final analysis reports as appropriate and will comply with peer review by external experts.

The initial period of this Panel will be three years. We anticipate reviewing membership of the Panel annually and inviting new organisations to apply, as well as reviewing the progress and performance of Panel members at this stage. The membership of the proposed Panel of Evaluators may also be reviewed at some point in the future.

4. Indicative Timetable

Set out below is the proposed procurement timetable. This is intended as a guide only.

DATE	TIMETABLE
w/c March 2nd, 2020	Call issued
March 23rd, 2020 12 PM	Deadline for receipt of applications. All applications sent back to WWC-CSC by 12PM Monday 23rd, 2020.
March 25th, 2020	Clarification calls, if necessary
w/c March 30th, 2020	Notification of outcome of application

5. Milestones and Indicative Budget

Funding will be given to the successful organisations within the Panel who have applied to be the independent evaluators for individual pieces of work.

Payments will be released in stages alongside agreed milestones, providing these have been met. The final milestones shall be clearly documented in any agreement entered into as a result of this Call, and in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Call. We envisage the value of these evaluations will range from £25k to over £200k.

6. How to apply

To apply, please complete all questions in Annex 1. Your entire application including any supporting documentation should be e-mailed to wwcprogrammes@nesta.org.uk by no later than **12PM GMT on Monday 23rd March 2020**.

Annex 2 sets out the Terms and Conditions. If you have a specific question not answered either above or in the Annexes to this Call, please email wwcprogrammes@nesta.org.uk

Annex 1

Evaluation of Proposals

1. Evaluation Process

Nesta's team 'What Works for Children's Social Care' will run this competitive procurement process in a manner which is open and transparent and ensures equal treatment of participants in the process.

1.1 Selection Criteria

Your proposal will be evaluated against the selection criteria listed below.

<u>Selection Criteria</u>
1. Experience of organisation
<p>Please provide your organisation's track record and expertise, including details of experience of completing relevant projects, including size and duration of the contract, type of evaluation conducted, methodologies used etc.</p> <p>Please provide details of your organisation's expertise and interest in the following methodologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impact evaluation in children's social care, education or Local Government• Randomised controlled trial design and analysis• Implementation and process evaluation• Primary data collection• Quasi-experimental methods, including difference in differences and propensity score matching• Measurement, instrument development and validation, and psychometrics• Economic evaluation <p>4 pages max.</p>
RESPONSE:

2. Experience of proposed individuals

Please provide a list, and describe the relevant experience of prospective Principal Investigators for research projects. Please also include CVs for up to five key personnel.

2 pages max.

Please include CVs as appendices.

RESPONSE:

3. Value for money

Please provide a rate card:

Organisations are asked to provide a day rate card for work commissioned through this Panel, with valid rates for each of the next three years specified. Rates specified on this card will be used for all subsequent evaluations commissioned by the WW-CSC, except in exceptional circumstances. Maximum (as opposed to minimum) rates should be specified. While we will not be setting a cap on day rates or on the proportion of project costs to be spent on evaluation, value for money and ensuring that public funds are put to the best use, will be guiding principles for decisions both on admission to the Panel and on subsequent evaluations.

Please use the template below (adding as many rows as necessary):

Role/ Grade	Day rate (2020/21)	Day rate (2021/22)	Day rate (2022/23)

4. Conflicts of Interest:

Please confirm if you are aware of any potential or actual conflicts of interest which may prevent you from working with What Works for Children's Social Care. If you consider a conflict may exist; please provide details in your response.

Where conflicts of interest are identified What Works for Children's Social Care reserves the right to exclude the supplier from further participation in this tender process.

SUPPLIER RESPONSE:

Annex 2

Term and Conditions **Panel of Evaluators**

This Annex provides the terms and conditions which will govern your submission of an application to What Works for Children’s Social Care. By submitting a proposal, you accept these terms and conditions and you agree to abide by them. If you do not agree to these terms and conditions, please do not submit a proposal.

What Works for Children’s Social Care (WW-CSC) is seeking applicants to become members of its Panel of Evaluators (the “**Panel**”). The **Panel** will be eligible to apply to deliver independent evaluations of interventions commissioned by the WW-CSC, aiming to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families. **Please read these terms and conditions, our [Privacy Policy](#) and all related information on the Panel carefully before submitting an application to the Panel.**

1. Who can submit?

Anyone who falls within the conditions of eligibility set out in the “Selection Criteria”, in Annex 1 of this call can submit an application.

2. What happens after you apply?

2.1 We will assess all applications received by the deadline of **12PM, Monday March 23rd 2020**, and which satisfy the eligibility criteria against the selection criteria set out in Annex 1. We currently intend to inform shortlisted applicants of our decision by **Friday, April 3rd, 2020**.

2.2 Our decision about eligibility and about selection of applicants for the Panel shall be final. We may provide individual feedback to applicants where it is deemed helpful but are not obliged to do so.

2.3 Any financial or other support awarded by What Works for Children’s Social Care will be subject to satisfaction of all relevant legal and regulatory requirements, signature of appropriate legal documentation and completion of appropriate milestones. Any funds received must be through a legally incorporated organisation registered in the UK. We may only fund applicants which meet our charitable objects and provide public benefit.

We may impose conditions and restrictions on any private benefit or profit that may be derived from our grant. Financial support provided by What Works for Children's Social Care may not cover all the costs of your project and VAT is not payable on grants.

- 2.4 You and your partners must bear any costs relating to the submission of your expression of interest, application and participation on the Panel. You must take independent legal advice if you are concerned about these terms and conditions or your participation on the Panel. Unless otherwise stated, each applicant may make only one application to the Panel.
- 2.5 We reserve the right to refuse to accept any expression of interest or applications; to suspend or withdraw the Panel at any time; to vary the form and substance of the Panel or extend the deadlines; to reduce or increase the number of applicants selected for each phase of selection or the amount of support available under the Panel; and/or to reject any proposal or withdraw a place on the Panel if you are in breach of these terms and conditions, fail to participate fully on the Panel or in the event of an actual or potential conflict of interest. If any selected applicant subsequently withdraws or is withdrawn from the Panel, we may select a replacement applicant, but will not be obliged to do so.
- 2.6 We reserve the right to vary the Panel's composition or substance, or these terms and conditions at any time and at our sole discretion. Variations will take effect from the date they are posted on our website so you must check this page regularly to see the current version. If you provide us with a contact email address, we will aim to notify you of any changes.
- 2.7 If you are unable to complete the expression of interest and/or application process due to a disability, please let us know so that we can consider whether reasonable adjustments can be made.

3. Your promises to us

By submitting an application for the Panel, you confirm on behalf of yourself and your partners that:

- All information and materials provided to What Works for Children's Social Care by you or your partners are true, accurate and complete and you will notify us immediately of any changes to information or materials provided;

- you have provided us with all information which might reasonably be thought to be relevant or necessary for us to consider your application;
- you and your partners have, or will obtain as required, all authorisations, registrations, licences, consents and permissions necessary to submit your application, carry out your proposal and comply with these terms and conditions;
- in participating on the Panel, you and your partners will act lawfully, ethically and in good faith and will comply fully with equality and anti-bribery legislation and with any other applicable laws, regulations, guidelines and codes of practice, and will comply with our reasonable requirements, including in relation to health and safety and security, while attending interviews and workshops as part of the Panel; and
- neither you nor any of your partners has any actual or potential conflict of interest with Nesta (including with our trustees, officers or employees) in making your application or complying with these terms and conditions and you will immediately inform us if you become aware of any such conflict of interest.

4. Use of Information

4.1 We will use any personal information provided by you or your partners, including contact details for your staff and your partners' staff:

- for the purpose of assessing and evaluating your expression of interest;
- to process your application for Panel;
- to administer the Panel;
- to let you know about other What Works for Children's Social Care events and activities, and
- to carry out evaluation and research.

4.2 We may share this information with the Department for Education and any third parties helping us to administer the What Works for Children's Social Care, subject to appropriate obligations of confidentiality and data protection. Some of these organisations may process your information in countries outside of the UK or European Economic Area (EEA) where data protection laws are not the same as in the UK and/or the EEA. Please see our Privacy Policy (<https://whatworks-csc.org.uk/privacy-policy/>) for more information about how personal information may be used.

4.3 We may carry out publicity and promotion for the Panel and publish our research and evaluation in relation to the programmes being assessed by the Panel. You agree that

you and your partners will participate in publicity related to these activities and consent on behalf of you and your partners to the use of the names of your organisations, a summary of your proposal, and photographs/recordings of your participation in the Panel, in promotion and publications relating to the Panel and the What Works for Children's Social Care in any media and online.

4.4 Any publicity which you or your partners wish to carry out in relation to the Panel must acknowledge What Works for Children's Social Care as partners and be approved to us in advance.

5. Limitation of Liability

5.1 To the extent permitted by applicable law, we will not be liable to you, your partners or anyone else in respect of any direct or indirect loss, or liability, costs claims taxes, charges or expenses, economic loss or loss of opportunity arising in connection with your expression of interest or application to, and your participation in, the Panel, and/or any reliance by you on any statement made or advice given by us, our partners or contractors. If you submit any materials or items as part of your expression of interest or application, you are doing so at your own risk. We give no undertakings to keep safely, maintain or return any materials or items. We do not make any warranty about the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by What Works for Children's Social Care in connection with the Panel. Any dispute between you and/or your partners and/or any other applicant must be resolved between you and independently of What Works for Children's Social Care.

5.2 Without prejudice to Clause 5.1, our maximum liability to you or anyone else under these terms and conditions and the Panel (including the Panel application process) (if any) will be limited to £500. Nothing in these terms and conditions shall exclude or limit our liability for death or personal injury caused by negligence or fraudulent misrepresentation made by us.

6. Governing Law and Jurisdiction

These terms and conditions shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of England and Wales and both parties hereby submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.