

## Research Ethics Committee Members Recruitment

What Works for Children's Social Care (WWCSC) is seeking to recruit Research Ethics Committee (REC) Members from a variety of backgrounds. Whether you are an experienced academic with expertise in research with young people, or you work in children's social care, or you are a member of the public with no professional experience of children's social care or research ethics at all, we want to hear from you.

We are seeking to recruit REC members to sit on an ethics committee which reviews research proposals for projects to be delivered or commissioned by the WWCSC, providing an advisory role to the Centre.

The Research Ethics Committee provides support and guidance to WWCSC in relation to ethical principles. The purpose of this is to ensure that research being carried out protects the rights of participants, minimises risk of harm, maximises benefit for individuals and society, and that research participants are fully informed about the purpose of the research and take part voluntarily, free from coercion.

## About What Works for Children's Social Care

What Works for Children's Social Care (WWCSC) 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 generate evidence where it is found to be lacking, improve its accessibility and relevance to the practice community, and support practice leaders to create the conditions for more evidence-informed practice in their organisations.

What Works for Children's Social Care is the largest funder of children's social care research in England. Our ambitious research agenda is seeing a growing number of high quality impact evaluations being carried out to help improve the lives of young people and their families. Further details of all our research and evaluation projects can be found at <https://whatworks-csc.org.uk/research/research-projects/>

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

## Role

Headed by the Research Ethics Chair, The Research Ethics Committee (REC) is responsible for reviewing the research proposals of WWCSC to identify ethical considerations and make recommendations on whether to proceed with and/or amend the research. The main purpose of REC Members is to collaboratively and carefully review projects undertaken internally by WWCSC, as well as those commissioned to other research agencies where it is not possible for them to be reviewed by their own REC. The REC is responsible for advising the Centre on the compliance of its research with the WWCSC [framework of research ethics](#), based on guidance from the ESRC. The REC will provide robust and impartial advice on the ethical implications of various research proposals, working directly with researchers to express any concerns.

## Person Specification

We welcome applications from any of the following:

- Care leavers, or parent/carers who have had contact with children's social care
- Representatives of Child/Young Person's organisations, representing the voice of the child
- Qualified social workers
- Members with methodological expertise such as as a trialist or trial statistician
- Members with experience in research ethics, research methodology, and research and evaluation with young people.

Research projects will be varied, potentially involving sensitive subject areas. It is essential that you can:

- Work effectively within a group, bring a fair minded and pragmatic approach to addressing ethical issues
- Commit to attending meetings and review proposals as required

Panel members will be given training in ethical review. The REC Chair will provide advice, guidance, support and mentorship as required to committee members.

The panel meets up to four times a year, and also undertake review of projects by correspondence in between meetings. Meetings are scheduled according to availability and members will have advance notice of these taking place. Meetings will be hosted at the Centre's office in London and secretariat provided by the Centre. Remote attendance at meetings is possible where needed. Panel members will be compensated for their time at £20/hr plus any travel expenses.

The role is expected to start as soon as possible.

### **How to apply**

To apply, please submit your CV and a cover letter to [hr@whatworks-csc.org.uk](mailto:hr@whatworks-csc.org.uk), citing "Ethics Committee" in the Subject of the email.

Deadline for Applications: 30th September

Interviews will be held in on a rolling basis, so please apply before the deadline.

If you would like to discuss further the role of the REC Committee Members, please do not hesitate to get in touch with [hannah.collyer@whatworks-csc.org.uk](mailto:hannah.collyer@whatworks-csc.org.uk)