



# **The Evidence Quarter Non-Exec Director**

**Candidate Brief**

**July 2021**

Dear Colleague,

[The Evidence Quarter](#) (EQ) is a home for evidence based organisations. It brings together a number of evidence and research charities and organisations at Albany House, Westminster. The Evidence Quarter is a Community Interest Company, limited by guarantee, and a subsidiary of What Works for Children's Social Care (WWCSC). The office (EQ) brings together leading evidence institutions to collaborate, share office space and back-office functions.

The other organisations involved are a number of [What Works Centres and evidence based organisations](#). This idea for co-location of organisations should prevent duplication and allow collaboration between these evidence minded organisations.

The EQ aims to bring together centres to share physical space, increase collaboration, and tackle joint challenges together. Each evidence organisation exists for a reason – to tackle a particular problem, or to help a particular group – and the uniqueness of each centre is in some ways its strength, but we face common challenges; around methodology, building movements, and achieving an impact with the research that we do.

The EQ is more than just an office. We want to facilitate the organisations to become greater than the sum of their parts. We regularly host events and seminars from speakers on a variety of topics of interest to our members, and, through our community manager, host working groups and roundtables on areas of cross-cutting interest, including how LGBTQAI+ people are recognised and supported by research, and the use of multiple comparison testing in impactful research. Co-location will also allow organisations to share operational functions and secure better deals and rates from suppliers.

In 2021 we are expanding our work on evidence around what works and how this intersects with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Queer and other gender identities and sexual orientations (LGBTQAI+).

We are seeking new directors who

- are committed to ensuring evidence is at the forefront of decision making;
- can help The EQ think long term and strategically;
- have strong communication skills and a critical and curious mind and;
- have the ability to influence key stakeholders within their sphere of expertise and more widely.

We are keen to appoint two directors at this time, we are also passionate about improving the diversity of our board of directors, and especially welcome applications from people who may feel that they are not currently well represented on boards. We are encouraging applications from minoritised groups, in particular from the LGBTQAI+ community.

More information about the organisation and the role is included with our information pack. I look forward to receiving and reading your application.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Coles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Jenny Coles**

**Chair of Trustees**, What Works for Children's Social Care and **Director of The Evidence Quarter**  
July 2021

## Introduction to The Evidence Quarter

The Evidence Quarter C.I.C. will create a space for leading evidence-based research institutions to collaborate and promote the importance of evidence-based research by:

- sharing resources and knowledge
- collaborating on evidence standards (amongst other things)
- allowing these institutions to share office space and back-office functions.

The work of The Evidence Quarter C.I.C. will benefit evidence-based research institutions and the wider community in a number of ways:

- evidence-based institutions and evidence-based research ensure that social policy issues in the UK are tackled effectively and appropriately, which gives rise to benefit for the wider community. For example, the sole member of The Evidence Quarter C.I.C. is What Works for Children's Social Care, a registered charity – which aims to improve the lives of children and families through setting standards and generating the best research into what works for children's social care. Other organisations which will benefit from The Evidence Quarter C.I.C.'s activities include Centre for Homelessness Impact (another registered charity) which supports the use of data and evidence in bringing about a sustainable end to homelessness. These organisations are integral to improving social policy issues in the UK.
- it will support and promote evidence-based research institutions to work effectively and efficiently to disseminate evidence-based research. The use of shared office space and back-office functions will allow these institutions to more effectively use their funds to gather and publish evidence-based research which benefits the wider community.
- the demand and need for evidence-based research is at an all-time high, and there are a growing number of evidence-based research institutions (such as those in the What Works network). There are now 29 evidence frameworks and standards for organisations in UK social policy. The Evidence Quarter C.I.C. will allow collaboration on evidence standards (amongst other things) to avoid duplication and unnecessary expenditure (particularly for new evidence institutions – which are often registered charities).

## Role Description

As a member of the Board, you will work with the Chair and other directors to set strategic direction and shape the work of The Evidence Quarter.

The specific duties of the directors are to:

- Contribute to all aspects of Board business, governance, and strategic oversight;
- Actively engage with key stakeholders in fields which are relevant to our organisations, acting in an ambassadorial capacity as appropriate;
- Provide specific expertise where the director's contacts and knowledge will be invaluable in supporting our activities;
- Promote the work of The EQ as a key agency for evidence based improvement and change across numerous sectors.

**Essential criteria for director appointments:**

- A successful track record in one or more of the following areas in the UK or internationally:
  - Working across public, voluntary, charitable or private sectors
  - Social investment and social enterprise: working with innovations and other investors for capital or revenue or other collaboration
  - Research and/or evidence based policymaking
  
- Connections to networks of people in the UK or internationally from whose expertise What Works for Children's Social Care may benefit, and a willingness to use those connections for the organisation's benefit.
  
- A mind-set aligned to the organisation and its Board of directors, including:
  - Independent: able to challenge and support
  - Creative and enthusiastic about work that makes a difference
  - Team player: honest and transparent

A good understanding of, and commitment to, The EQ's aims and the ability to meet the time commitment outlined on the next page.

#### **Desirable criteria for director appointments:**

- Continue the work of establishing The EQ as a semi- independent and financially sustainable organisation.
- Personal commitment to improving outcomes for the communities these organisations support.
- Understanding of the financial, structural, and human dimensions of a new organisation.
- Understanding of the agenda around What Works Centres and the broader agenda around evidence-based policy and practice in public services.
- Experience of operating as a non-executive director, or evidence of transferable skills, including:
  - Strategic capability: sharp mind and good judgement
  - Ability to build strong relationships
  - Demonstrable understanding of roles and responsibilities of non-executives and of collective decision-making

### **Terms of Appointment**

**Remuneration:** We are a charity, so these roles are non-executive and unremunerated, except for the reimbursement of reasonable expenses.

**Time commitment:** The Board of Directors meets four times a year. There may also be events and functions at The EQ that directors will be asked to attend..

**Length of appointment:** The appointment will be for a term of up to two years, and is

anticipated to start Autumn 2021.

**Location:** Board meetings are normally held in Central London.

**Equal opportunities:** We are an equal opportunities employer, and we aim to have a diverse mix of skills and backgrounds amongst the members of the Board of directors that can in turn better reflect the sector we work with. We would therefore welcome applicants from all backgrounds, but specifically from ethnic minorities and people with a disability.

## How to apply

To apply for this role please email [hr@whatworks-csc.org.uk](mailto:hr@whatworks-csc.org.uk):

- A covering letter which:
  - addresses the essential criteria for the role
  - tells us why you want to join the Board
  - explains what difference your contribution is likely to make to the work of WWCS.
- An up to date record of your achievements

**Deadline: 31st August 2021**