



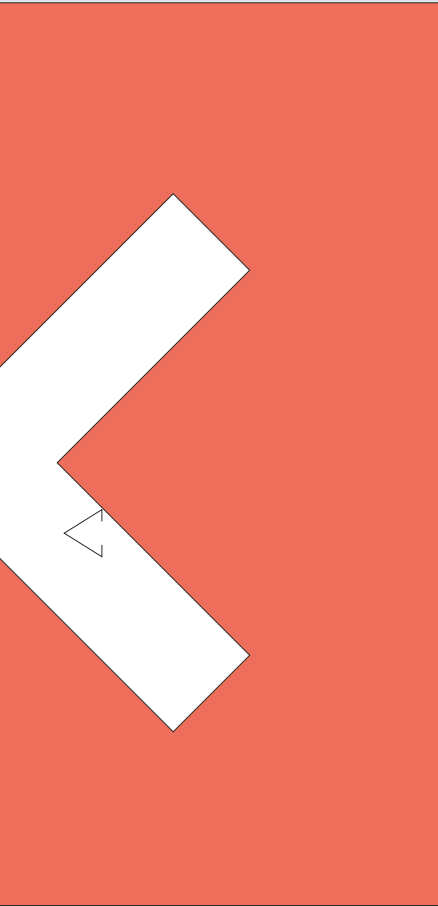
What Works for  
**Children's  
Social Care**

# LEARNING FROM INNOVATION

Summaries of the Children's Social Care  
Innovation Programme round 2 evaluations

JULY 2021





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# KEY TO FINDINGS

## Was there an impact evaluation?



Yes



No

Quality of evaluation:



Low .....High

## Lacking evidence



(Approach outcomes and results with caution)

## Outcomes and results



increase



decrease



No change



Inconclusive

## Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Yes



No

Cost benefit effect:



Negative .....



Positive



Inconclusive

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## FOREWORD

In 2014 we launched the £200 million Innovation Programme, unleashing great ideas about how best we might support families and their children facing very significant and often multiple difficulties, and most often living within severe social and economic hardship.

Since then, we have seen some of those ideas become integral to how we practice: relational and welfare orientated approaches, strengths based application of multidisciplinary skills and knowledge, and a strong whole family focus. With some of the most promising ideas now being scaled up across England, what I have loved most about the innovation programme is how it helped us get re-focused on practice – what actually *supports* families, helps families *stay together*, and for children in care, what helps *secure greater stability and life-long permanence*.



What Works for Children's Social Care was always the logical next step in the journey towards securing best evidence which, in turn, would guide practitioners and leaders alike in the choices they make, as well as help secure further investment in social services for families. What constitutes good evidence is hotly contested, and when the evaluation results do not match the expectation or the experience of those either delivering or receiving services, the debates can get very heated indeed. This is why we need to inject some objectivity into the equation. As part of our national landscape of children's social care we need an institution which transcends the politics, the professional rivalry, the pet projects and the inherent human biases, and just *tells it like it is*.

This publication helps us get there. There is a lot to digest for Government departments, local authorities and charities, the professions, and indeed for children and families too. As we head towards the Spending Review, I look forward to those crucial conversations about the future investment for children and families' social care.

Moving beyond the pandemic, we must continue to recognise the huge strengths children's services have demonstrated over the last year. Now we need to build on that and continue to strive to achieve the very best for the children and families we service.



## ISABELLE TROWLER

Chief Social Worker for England  
(Children & Families),  
Department for Education



## INTRODUCTION

Between 2016 and 2020, the second round of the English Children's Social Care Innovation Fund spent more than £200 million to encourage and support innovative practice across the country, funding 50 projects overall.

The projects varied massively in their scale and ambition, and in what change they aimed to achieve. Some were whole system changes, seeking to reform practice across an entire local authority. Others were more targeted interventions, aiming, for example, to support young people who were leaving residential care homes.

Each of these projects was accompanied by an independent evaluation, commissioned by the Department for Education, and overseen by OpCit Social Research. These evaluations adopted a variety of methodologies; ranging from qualitative insights drawn from interviews and focus groups, to large scale randomised controlled trials and quasi-experimental evaluations that aim to identify causal impacts.



The reports of these evaluations were published in late 2020 and early 2021, and contain a huge amount of information and insight - in total running to more than 2,000 pages. To help busy professionals to understand this huge volume of research, we've summarised each study over the following pages of this booklet.

For each, we've tried to condense some key features of the project; what was done, whether there was an impact evaluation - and the strength of that evaluation - whether there was a cost benefit analysis, and what it found. For all the outcome measures considered by the impact evaluations, we've also summarised what was found - did the evaluation find an increase in that measure, a decrease, or no change. On page one you'll find a key which explains how to read the dashboards. The table of contents also provides an 'at a glance' summary of all the interventions.

We have attempted to summarise them over the coming 120 pages - making the several thousand pages of evaluations easier to access and comprehend, and making some of the key insights easier to draw out for the busy reader. This summarising of course misses some detail, and cannot do justice to the thousands of hours of research and analysis that took place.

The overall picture painted by the evaluations is of a serious need for more research, and particularly more impact evaluations. Opcit's summary of the programme found that only 12 interventions had 'stronger' impact evaluations, while 29 either had compromised evaluations, only looked at changes in outcomes over time, or had no impact evaluations at all.

Tellingly, the less robust the impact evaluation, the more likely it is to find a positive impact of an intervention; reflecting the fact that things like selection bias, survivorship bias, and omitted variables biases are likely to favour finding a positive effect. This is not merely an academic question. Here we can see, in plain terms, that less robust methodologies are more likely to produce positive findings, and so many of those positive findings are likely to be misleading or even false.

While there are encouraging signs from several projects, there is also a broader lesson about the targeting of investment in evaluation. In many cases, programmes were too small, or insufficiently understood, to allow a full evaluation. In other cases, large investments in programmes affecting many families have been permitted to occur without an impact evaluation to tell us whether this work is having an impact. In still more cases, the absence of a cost benefit analysis makes it difficult for local authorities with constrained finances to make decisions between two ideas.

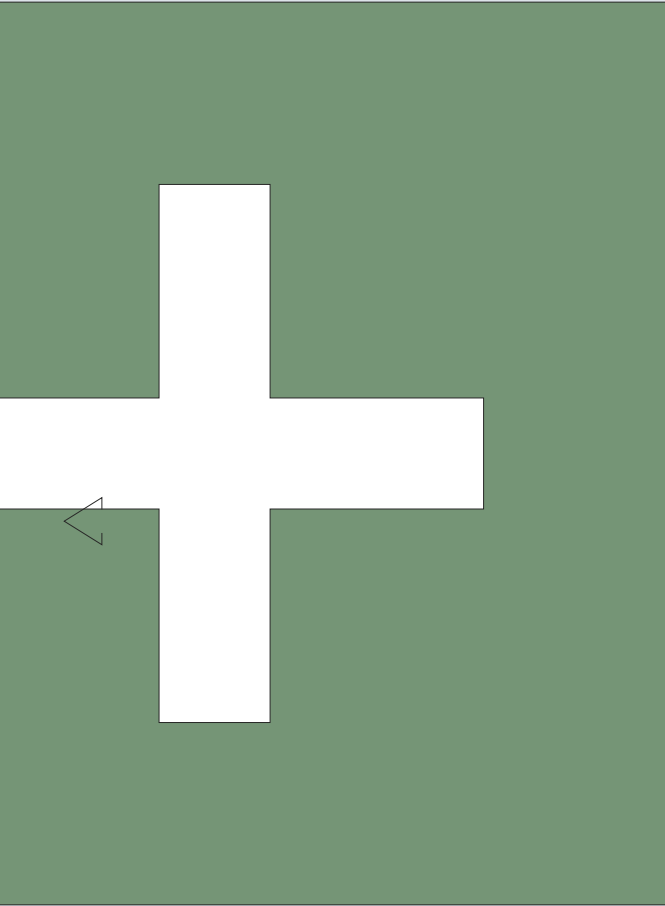
The remedies to these challenges are not one-size-fits all. There must be space for new projects to be developed, explored, and better understood, before they are subjected to the rigour of an impact evaluation. But large investments of public money, over a sustained period of time, also demand an understanding of their impacts. We need to be clear which type of project is which, and tailor the evaluations accordingly.

There are also structural challenges associated with evaluation. Short term projects, which need to get up and running, are hard, or even impossible, to evaluate within their own funding window. Both delivery partners and evaluators could always use more time, and we are only too aware of the realities of government funding periods. But one of Britain's successes in levelling up evidence-based policy through the What Works movement is to separate both the timing and the funding of interventions from the timings of their evaluations. High quality evaluation of the impacts of an intervention on young people and their families will often mean taking longer over that evaluation - looking not just at the short term impacts, but also those in those into the longer term.

We can learn a lot from the evaluations of the Innovation Programme – and we've tried to condense what we can learn about the answers to questions of "what works" and cost effectiveness here. This quick guide hopefully makes it easy to see what we've learned, and importantly, to see where the gaps in evidence remain.

In addition to summarising the evidence generated by the innovation programme, we hope this report serves an additional purpose - as a call for action for further investment in research and evaluation in this area, to ensure that we are best serving the young people and families that we support.








# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

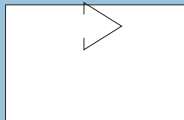
## UNDERSTANDING THE RATINGS



Our summaries indicate whether the researchers conducting the original study have done an impact evaluation via a sophisticated causal inference design (i.e. Interrupted Time Series, Difference in Differences, Propensity Score Matching, Coarsened Exact Matching, Randomised Controlled Trial). These types of analysis try to identify what happened as a consequence of the intervention. Some studies collected data and compared it to a comparator group, however, if they did not use a sufficiently robust design (such as those listed above), we have marked them as not having conducted an impact evaluation.

In addition, we have also rated the quality of the evaluation. This was done by assessing a variety of factors, including the sample size, the quality of the data used, the appropriateness of the methodology, whether a suitable comparator group was used, whether the duration of the study was sufficient, and the risk of bias through confounding, sample attrition or sample selection.

We recommend you approach the outcomes and results of interventions that have a low or moderately low quality or evaluation, or where an impact evaluation was not conducted, with caution.







# PARTNERS IN PRACTICE





## TRANSFORMING CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES IN HAMPSHIRE

The 'Transforming Children's Social Care Services' practice model aims to help families develop resilience with change. The implementation of change focuses on 1) Practice Innovation: (including training and supervision), 2) Service Innovation: Linking services outside social work, and developing non-statutory pathways 3) System innovation: Attempting to provide the right working conditions to encourage good practice by practitioners.

### Conducted by:

Institute of Public Care,  
Oxford Brookes University

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

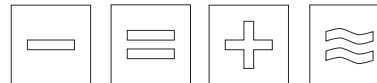


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Familiarity of social workers with model



Increase

Social workers feeling better equipped to help families



Increase

Better sustained relationships between social workers and children and families



Increase

Social workers spending more time doing direct work with children, young people and families



Increase





## MOTIVATIONAL PRACTICE (PARTNERS IN PRACTICE)

Motivational Practice aims to improve stability in families and placements through training programmes to improve social workers' practice. The sessions help social workers learn new skills to build more collaborative and supported relationships with children, parents, families and foster carers.

**Conducted by:**  
Behavioural Insights Team (BIT)

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

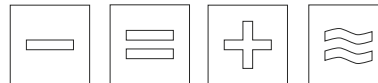


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

## OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:

Referrals that  
escalate to  
Child Protection Plan  
/Child Looked After



Inconclusive

Placement  
moves



Decrease

Residential  
care placements



No change

Re-referrals  
within 24 months



No change

Re-referrals  
within 12 months



Inconclusive





## FOCUS ON PRACTICE (PARTNERS IN PRACTICE)

Focus on practice introduced a systemic practice model to share services in the tri-borough. The model introduced systemic practice, an evidence-based therapeutic approach based on systemic concepts and theory, training and systems level changes, to family social work. Components include employing clinical practitioners, a training programme for SW staff, investment in an observation and coaching and motivational interviewing programme, parenting programmes and further implementations of Signs of Safety.

### Conducted by:

Kantar, London Economics  
& Tilda Goldberg Centre

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

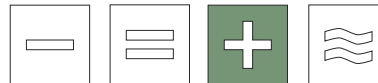


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive



# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Children  
looked after



Decrease

Child  
protection  
plans



Decrease

Children  
in need



Decrease

Social worker  
turnover rate



Decrease

Social worker  
vacancy rate



Decrease

Social worker  
absence rate



Decrease

Agency  
worker rate



Decrease





## LEEDS PARTNERS IN PRACTICE: REIMAGINING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

“Reimagining child welfare services for the 21st century” aims to safely reduce the need for statutory social work interventions and to find positive, family-centred alternatives to taking children into care by embedding restorative practice into social work teams and wider services. New Restorative Early Support teams add an additional level of intervention between early help and area team social work to ensure families receive help earlier.

### Conducted by:

Institute for Applied Social Research,  
University of Bedford

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

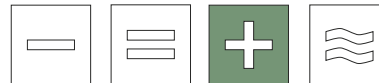


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?

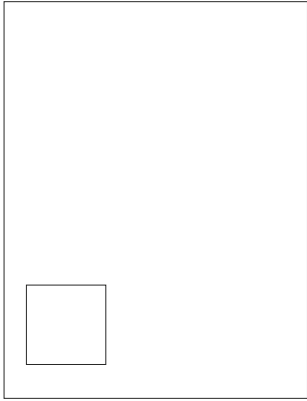


Cost benefit effect:

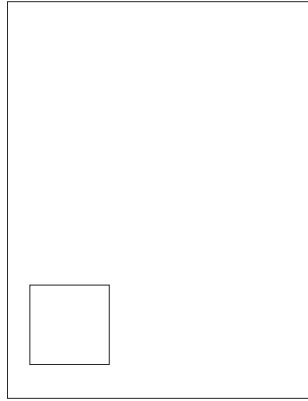


Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

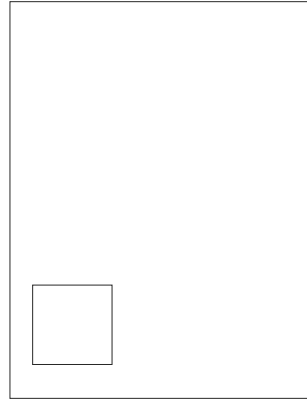
## OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



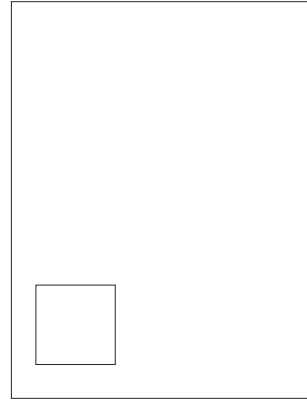
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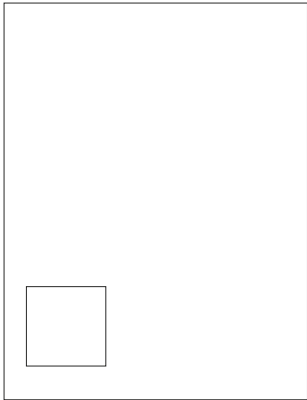
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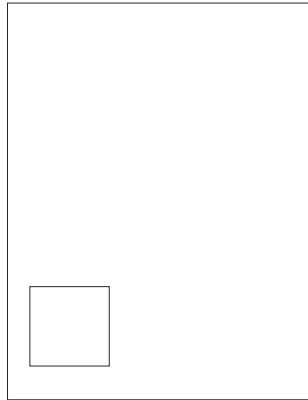
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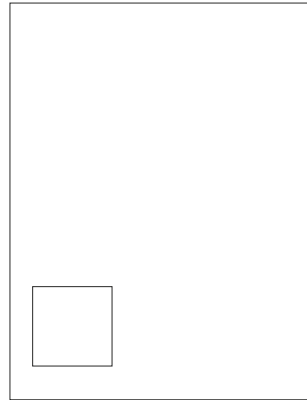
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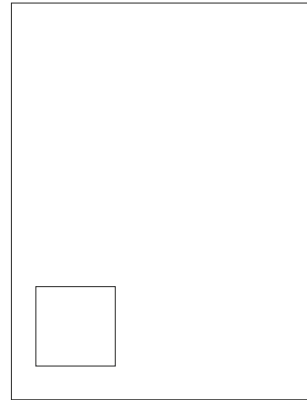
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## LINCOLNSHIRE PARTNERS IN PRACTICE (PIP) PROGRAMME EVALUATION

The Lincolnshire Partners in Practice Programme aims to assist children and families in need of help and protection from neglect, abuse or harm. It is composed of four programmes 1) embedding a Signs of Safety Model; 2) conducting a review of Early Help; 3) Future4Me (integrating Youth Offending Service with the Early Help Team and working with adolescents at risk of offending); 4)Caring2Learn (supporting schools and foster carers to improve outcomes and opportunities for Looked After Children).

**Conducted by:**  
Ecorys

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

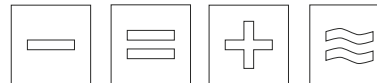


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:

Reoffending



Decrease

Referrals



No change

Referrals -  
No Further Action  
(NFA)



No change





## BACK ON TRACK AND LEAVING CARE PROJECTS - PARTNERS IN PRACTICE (PIP) NORTH YORKSHIRE

This programme extends the No Wrong Door programme from young people within or on the edge of the care system to two additional groups. Pupils with Social, Mental and Emotional Health needs at risk of exclusion are supported through the Back on Track project. The project provides therapeutic support from a multidisciplinary team and a dedicated key worker. Care leavers are supported through the Leaving Care project - a multidisciplinary team providing support around training, education, housing and health provision.

**Conducted by:**  
Nat Cen

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

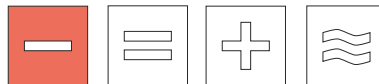


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

## OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:

Unauthorised  
absences



No change

Exclusions



No change

% of care  
leavers in suitable  
accommodation



No change

Young people  
who are not  
in education,  
employment or  
training (NEET)



No change





## ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN (AFC) PARTNERS IN PRACTICE (PIP) PROGRAMME

AFC aims to provide a fully-integrated service offer to improve practice across children's services. Internal-facing activities include

- Delivering Signs of Safety
- Reducing caseloads
- Embedding family therapy to enhance child protection capacity, develop reflective practice approaches and enable intensive therapeutic work
- Developing a Strengthening Families Plus Team to provide additional support to Early Help and Statutory Services in Parenting, Family Coaching, Domestic Violence, Substance Misuse and Adult Mental Health to keep young people safe at home and to support reunification of families

### Conducted by:

Ecorys

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

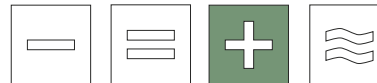


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive



## OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:

Step-down in  
social care  
classification



No change

Step-down in  
social care  
classification for  
those receiving  
the intervention  
for 7+ months



Increase





## PILOTS OF ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENTS TO ASSETPLUS

This project aims to understand if alternative assessment(s), designed by three local authorities as a nation-wide assessment planning framework and alternative to AssetPlus, could provide more focus, be more in-depth for the young person, and provide more nuanced responses to the needs of the individual. The assessment planning framework allows for one record to follow a child or young person throughout their time in the Youth Justice System (YJS).

**Conducted by:**  
NatCen Social Research

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

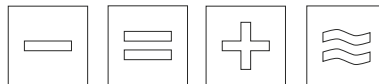


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?

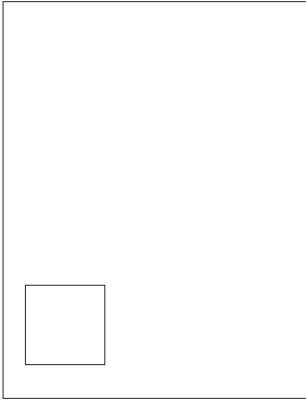


Cost benefit effect:

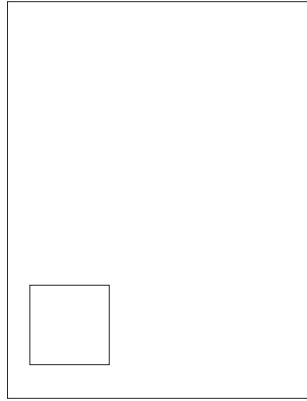


Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

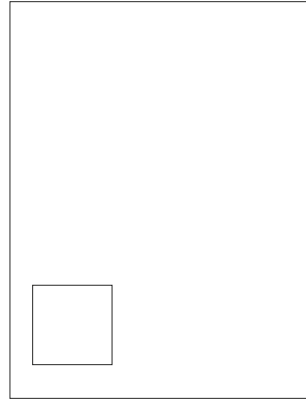
## OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



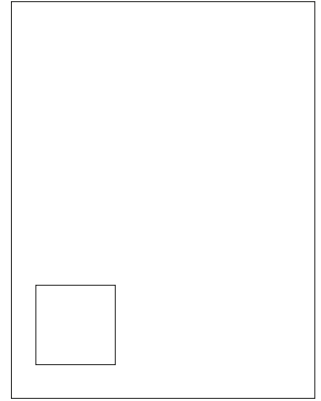
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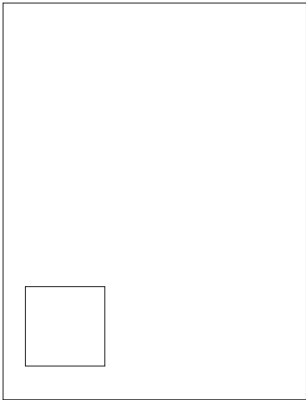
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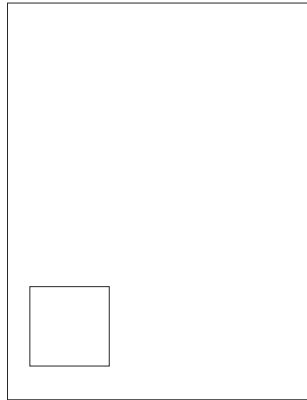
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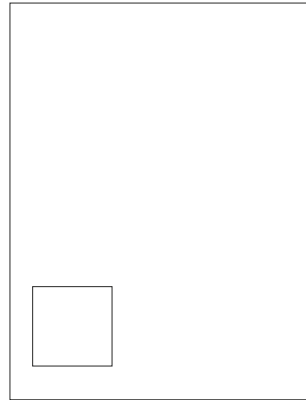
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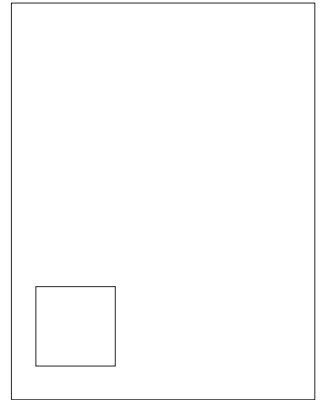
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# ADOLESCENTS FACING COMPLEX RISKS





## HACKNEY CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING

Hackney Contextual Safeguarding aims to address extra-familial risks and harms experienced by children and young people, such as child sexual and criminal exploitation, peer-on-peer abuse, and gang affiliation. Practitioners are trained and supported to view children and young people, with a 'contextual lens' - understanding how their peer groups and environments pose harms, and seek to address those contexts in their own right. Emphasis is on creating cultural change.

### Conducted by:

Research in Practice and  
the University of Sussex

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:



Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative

Positive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Rates of risk factors identified at Child in Need referral



No change

Type of placements



No change

Demand for services



No change





## BRADFORD B POSITIVE PATHWAYS

B Positive Pathways (BPP) incorporates two practice models (No Wrong Door and Mockingbird) to improve service to children and young people on the edge of care and in foster care. It features four components: 1) Residential - integrated, multi-agency care; 2) Outreach - specialist support to 'edge of care' adolescents in their family home; 3) Fostering - two satellite fostering constellations; 4) Multi-agency training in a single model of care.

### Conducted by:

Rees Centre  
& York Consulting

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

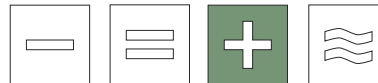


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive



## OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:

Prevention of  
entry into care



Increase

Accommodation  
stability



Increase

Strengths  
and Difficulties  
Questionnaire Scores



Decrease





## INSIDE OUT

Inside Out provides intensive targeted support for young people in care aged 14.5 to 18 years who have had multiple placements over the last 12 months (or those deemed at risk of following a similar path). This is done through intensive, relationship-based support through a coach, who aims to work closely with participants, social workers and placement providers to effect positive change – including more stable placements, improved wellbeing, less risky behaviour, and a more positive transition to adulthood. Additional support includes peer activities and support for the family by therapists.

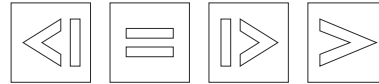
### Conducted by:

Tavistock Institute  
of Human Relations

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:



Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Episodes of missingness



Decrease

Placement stability



No change

Wellbeing



No change

Young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)



No change

Offending behaviour



No change

Exploitation risk



No change





# ALTERNATIVE DELIVERY AND FINANCE MODELS



## MAKING INTEGRATION HAPPEN

Making Integration Happen aims to achieve greater integration of health, social care and education services, to further improve support for families. More integrated services were introduced under the new 'Together for Families' Directorate, to further integrate education, early years, children's community health, early help and children's services.

### Conducted by:

The Institute of Public Care  
at Oxford Brookes University

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

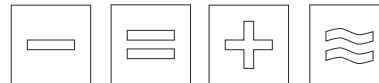


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?

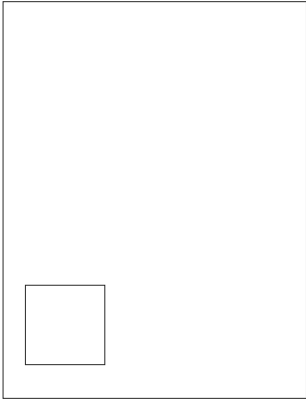


Cost benefit effect:

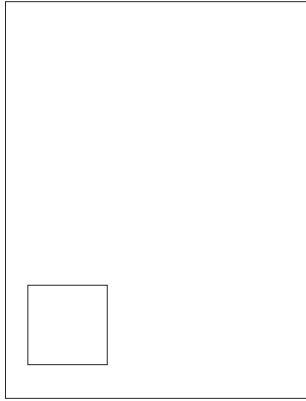


Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

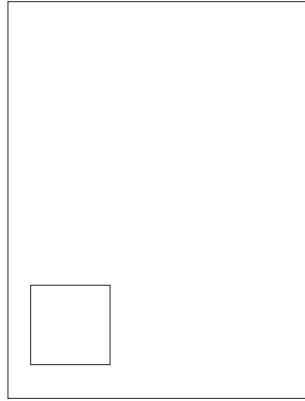
## OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



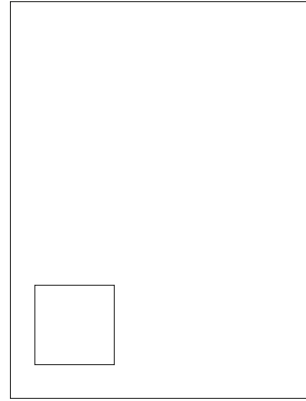
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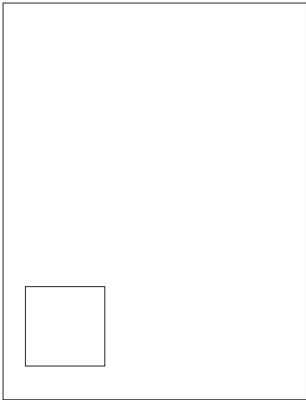
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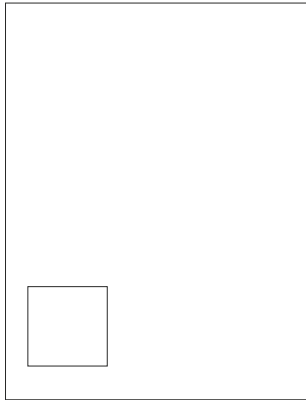
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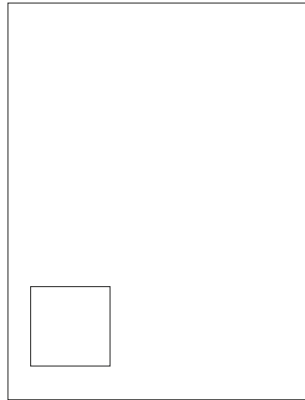
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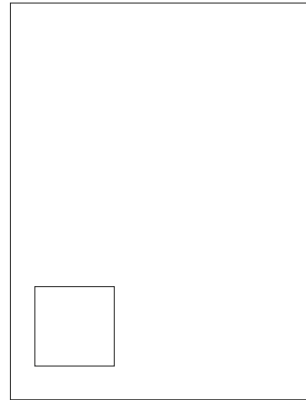
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## FUTURESOCIAL (ADCS WEST MIDLANDS)

Future Social Work aims to support quality of practice and career progression of children's social work professionals through the development of a shared, regional workforce development infrastructure.

**Conducted by:**  
ICF Consulting Ltd

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

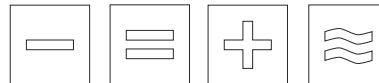


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



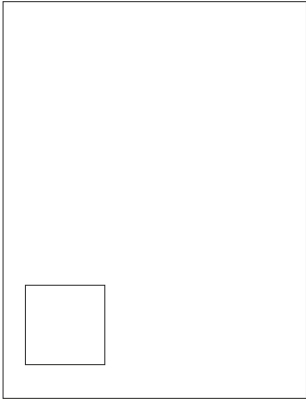
Cost benefit effect:



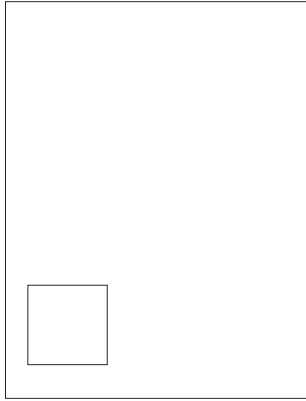
Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive



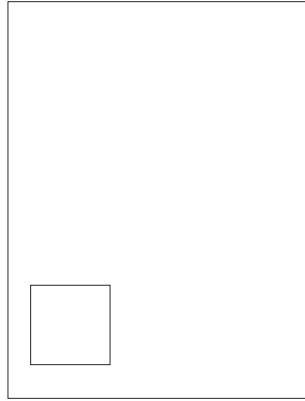
## OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



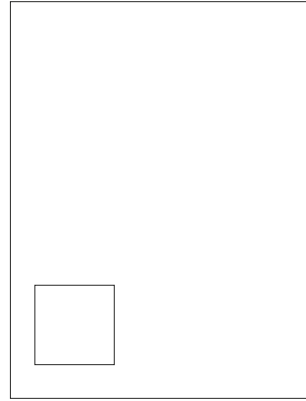
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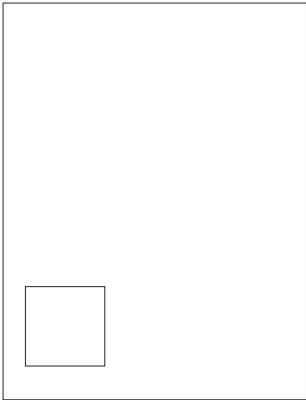
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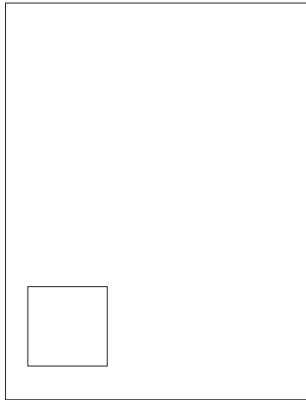
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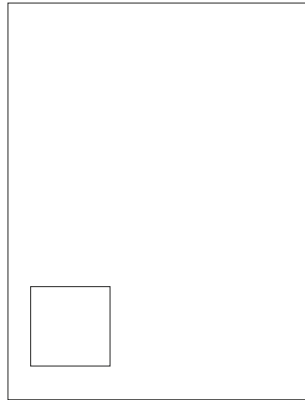
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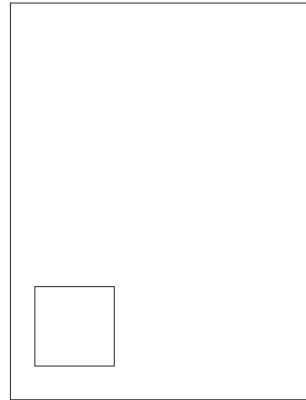
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## NORTH OF TYNE COLLABORATION

The North of Tyne Collaboration aims to explore the feasibility of integration across three neighbouring local authorities to achieve improvements in the areas of

- 1) Looked After Placements
- 2) Workforce and practice and
- 3) Shared services.

### Conducted by:

Institute of Public Care,  
Oxford Brookes University

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

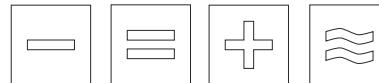


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?

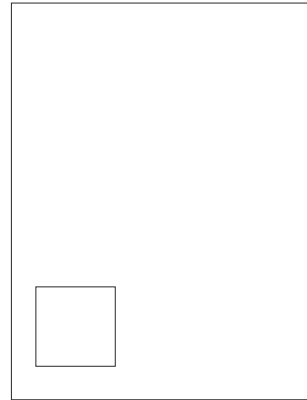
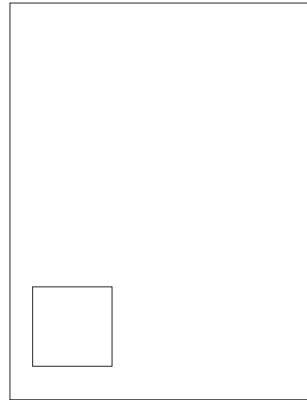
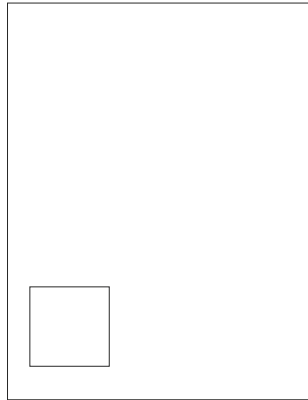
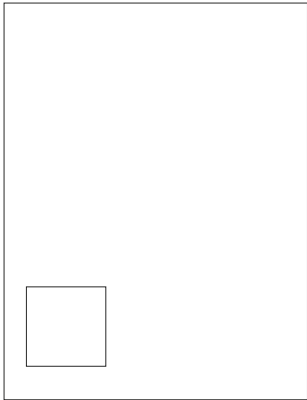
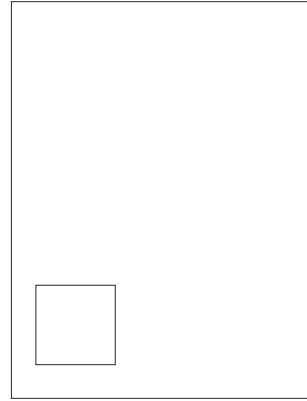
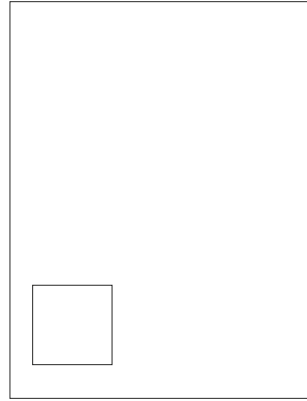
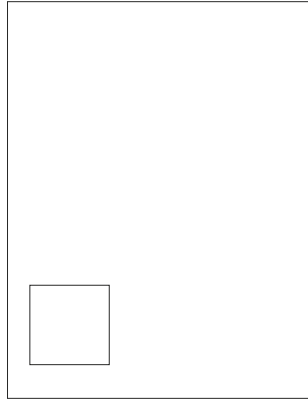
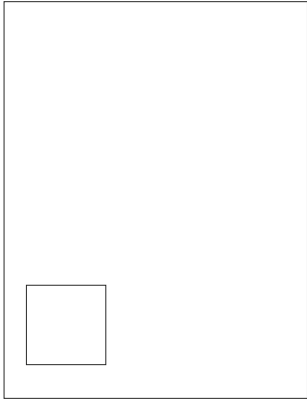


Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:





## NORTH-EAST LONDON COMMISSIONING PARTNERSHIP

The North East London Commissioning Partnership (NELCP) aims to ensure that there is availability of high quality residential placements for children. The project sought to evaluate the effectiveness of a) a new commissioning process b) the ability to provide suitable provision and c) whether significant savings can be made.

**Conducted by:**  
Ipsos MORI

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

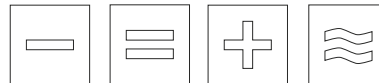


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?

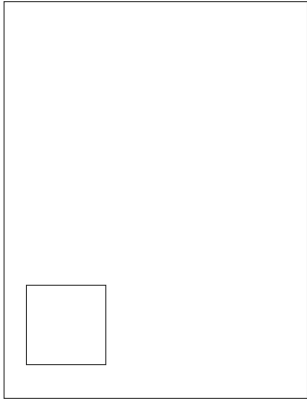


Cost benefit effect:

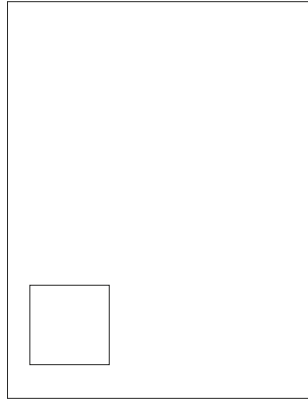


Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

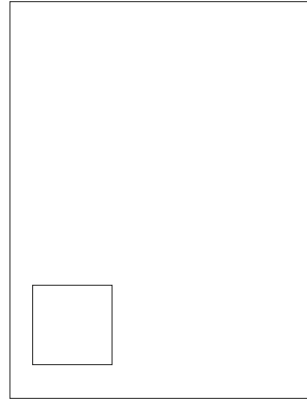
## OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



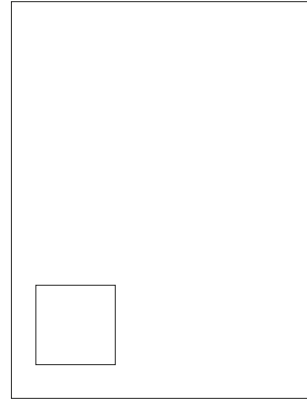
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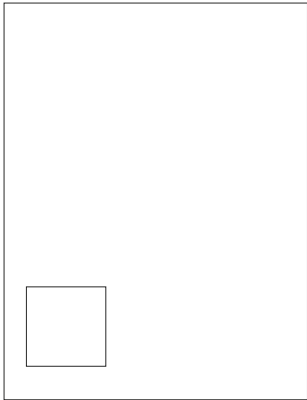
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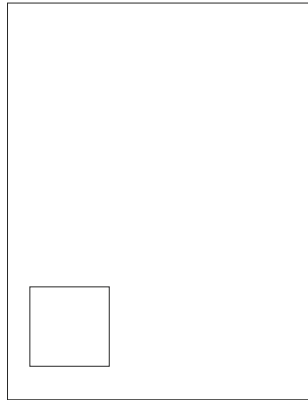
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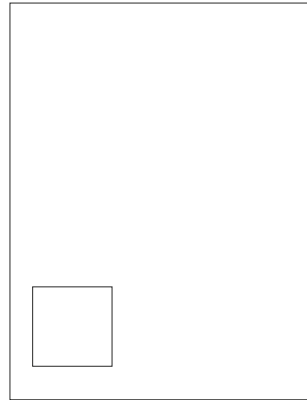
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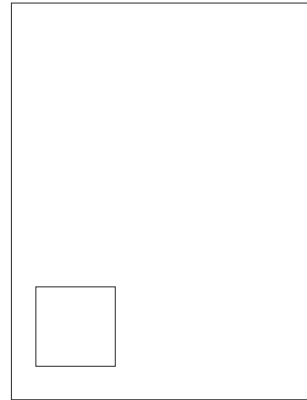
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## SOUTH LONDON COMMISSIONING PARTNERSHIP

The South London Commissioning Partnership aims to develop new and better commissioning arrangements for residential and foster care placements, that encourage innovation within the market; maximise local authorities' purchasing power to make efficiency savings; and secure more choice of good quality placements. The long-term objectives of the projects include developing a blueprint for sub-regional commissioning which is scalable across the country and ensuring children are safe at all times, progressing and well prepared for adulthood.

**Conducted by:**  
Ipsos MORI

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

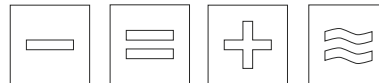


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



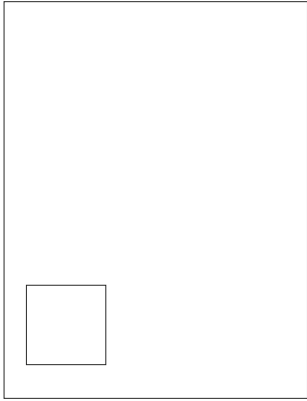
Cost benefit effect:



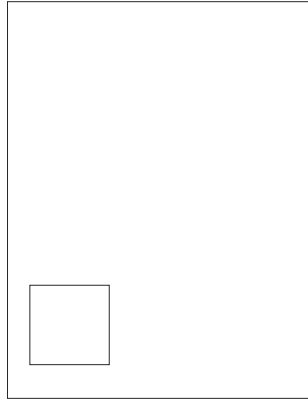
Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive



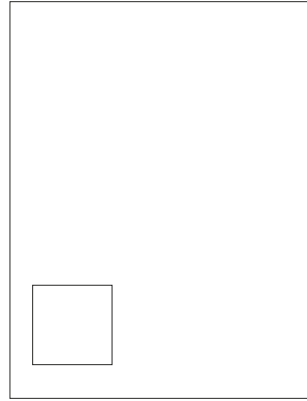
## OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



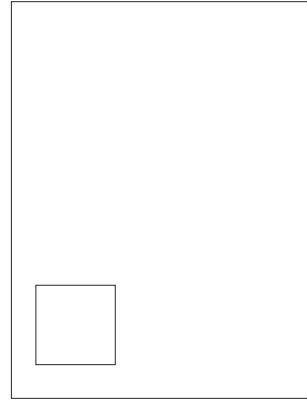
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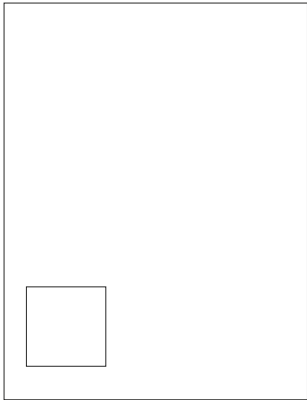
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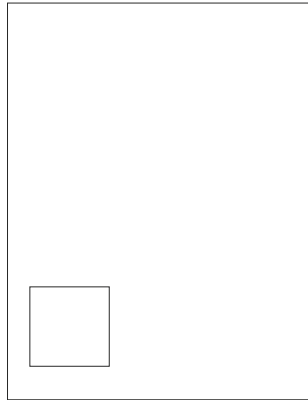
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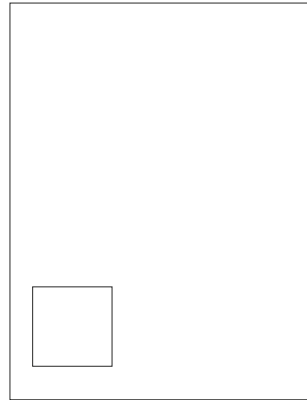
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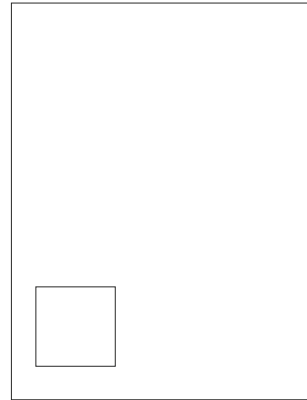
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# CARE LEAVERS AND STAYING CLOSE



## EVALUATION OF THE CARE LEAVERS PARTNERSHIP: SOUTHWARK COUNCIL AND CATCH22

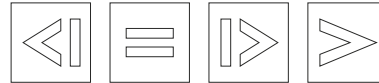
The Care Leavers Partnership aimed to trial a number of work streams that identified new ways of working with care leavers and staff. The project adopted a systems-focused approach to impact on the whole service, and looked at interventions which affected, or involved direct work with, smaller groups.

**Conducted by:**  
Ipsos MORI

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

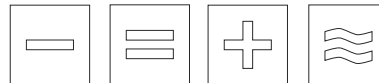


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Care leaver  
in education,  
employment  
or training



Increase

Care leavers  
in suitable  
accommodation



No change





## DERBY LOCAL AREA COORDINATOR

The Derby Local Area Coordination uses coordinators to help care leavers find 'community solutions' for their problems before using formal services.

Coordinators embed themselves in the community, and extend support by offering one-to-one advice to care leavers, and directing them to resources, services and networks already present in the community.

**Conducted by:**  
Ipsos MORI

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:



Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (sWEMWBS)



Increase

Stable accommodation



Increase





## THE HOUSE PROJECTS

The House Projects help young people leaving care to move to tenancies (shared flats with other care leavers), and offer forms of practical and emotional support to assist with the movement into independent living and preparation for employment, education and training, including 1-on-1 contact hours with support workers. Also included is a 6-9 month accredited modular skills course.

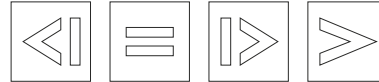
### Conducted by:

Department of Social Policy  
and Social Work, University of York

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

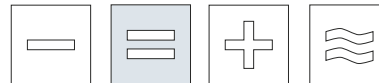


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Accommodation stability and satisfaction



Increase

Young people who are in education, employment or training



Decrease

Increased emotional wellbeing



Increase





## SHARED LIVES 16+

The Shared Lives programme provides the offer of accommodation arrangements to young people leaving residential or foster care in the form of a family home with matched carer(s) who offer personalised support. Living situations are intended to provide a family environment, but also give more choice and autonomy to the young person than residential/foster care (no curfews, choice in ending the arrangement). Carers are selected to work with young people to develop independence and living skills (cooking, managing money, arranging for health checkups). Development workers monitor the arrangement and visit every 6-8 weeks.

**Conducted by:**  
Manchester Metropolitan University

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

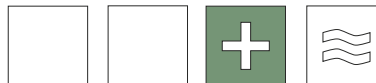


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive



# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Accommodation stability and satisfaction



Increase

Young people in education, employment or training



No change

Increased emotional wellbeing



Increase





## STAYING CLOSE: BREAK

The Break 'Staying Close Staying Connected' project provides semi-independent shared houses (multiple care leavers living together, with Break managing tenancy agreements) for young people leaving care, as well as a team of professionals to support them in several life areas. The team includes a transition worker, housing worker, EET worker, emotional wellbeing support and participation workers. (forms of support). Staying Close is provided in addition to normal Local Authority care leaving support.

**Conducted by:**  
University of York

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

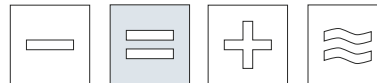


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Accommodation stability and satisfaction



Increase

Young people in education, employment or training



Increase

Increased emotional wellbeing



Increase

Practical and emotional life skills



Increase





## STAYING CLOSE: BRISTOL

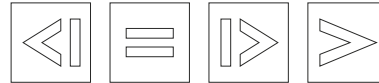
The Bristol pilot provides the core Staying Close features (secure accommodation pathways for those leaving residential care and a dedicated support worker offering support in the transition to independent living), as well as: 1) 'Pods' (independent living spaces built on the care home property) wherein care leavers can, before moving off the care home premises, experience and develop independent living skills, and rent-free council properties close to their former children's home; 2) Access to living skills courses; 3) Guaranteed apprenticeship opportunities, if the young person is interested.

**Conducted by:**  
Manchester Metropolitan University

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

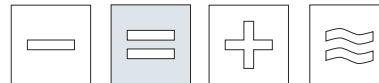


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Improved education, employment or training



No change

Appropriate accommodation



Increase





## STAYING CLOSE: FAIR WAYS

Staying Close Fairways offers a 'two-stage accommodation pathway' from residential care into independent residential accommodation owned by the charity. Social workers provide help to transition between the different forms of accommodation (including helping young people take over tenancy agreements when they turned 18).

Care leavers are also assigned a support worker, given access to a mental health therapist, and given the opportunity to stay in contact with a former social worker from care.

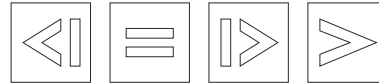
### Conducted by:

Rees Centre, University of Oxford  
& University of York

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

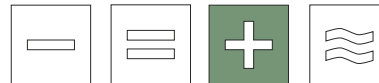


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Young people in secure and stable accommodation



Increase

Young people are engaged in education, employment or training



No change





## STAYING CLOSE: NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE

Staying Close North East Lincolnshire provides support to young people moving out of residential homes. Staying Close support workers provide one-on-one support in areas such as independent living skills, EET, safety, health, and wellbeing.

The North East Lincolnshire programme also includes voluntary skills development sessions and group sessions with fellow care-leavers at a dedicated venue, helping them socialise and not feel lonely. The programme also provides rent-free access to accommodation through local housing providers, (with Staying Close acting as tenant for the first year) and tenancy sustainment support.

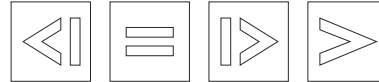
### Conducted by:

Manchester Metropolitan University

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

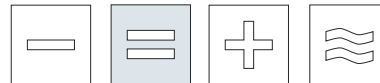


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive



# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Young people in secure and stable accommodation



Increase

Young people are engaged in education, employment or training



Increase





## STAYING CLOSE: NORTH TYNESIDE (PILOT)

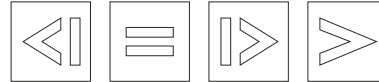
Staying Close North Tyneside aims to improve the outcomes of young people transitioning from residential care. The core elements include provision of accommodation close to the young person's children's home; support to keep personal relationships going between the young person and staff; and practical and emotional support in the transition period, whilst developing independence.

**Conducted by:**  
Manchester Metropolitan University

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

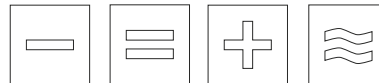


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Young people in secure and stable accommodation



Increase

Young people are engaged in education, employment or training



Increase





## THE PORTSMOUTH ASPIRATION STAYING CLOSE PROJECT

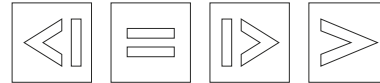
The Portsmouth Aspiration Staying Close project aims to provide young people aged 17-20, including Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers (UASC), with support from residential care to independent living via 'step-down' accommodation in home settings. The project uses a 'Team Around the Worker' approach to link young people to services, including educational psychologists and mental health workers, with the aim of reducing NEET, reducing homelessness and reducing involvement in crime.

**Conducted by:**  
Rees Centre, University of Oxford

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

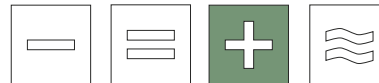


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Young people in secure and stable accommodation



Increase

Young people are engaged in education, employment or training



Increase





## ST CHRISTOPHER'S STAYING CLOSE (PILOT)

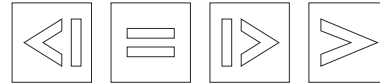
Staying Close St Christopher's provides an offer of accommodation and/or tenancy support for young people as well as 'pop home' beds in existing children's homes for former residents. Staff support young people with living skills and financial management. Young people are encouraged to work with a Life Skills Worker for exploring education and job opportunities and have access to a Life Skills Mentor.

**Conducted by:**  
Manchester Metropolitan University

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

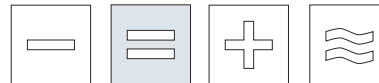


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Young people in secure and stable accommodation



Increase

Young people who are engaged in education, employment or training



Increase

Wellbeing



Increase





## STAYING CLOSE: SUFFOLK

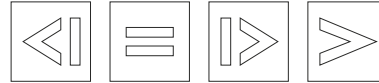
Staying Close Suffolk provides an offer of accommodation and tenancy support for young people to take up accommodation offers. Staff support young people with living skills and financial management. Staying Close workers are described as “working flexibly” with young people and are employed also in Local Authority children’s homes. Social support groups take place every other month, and aim to work as ‘feedback’ from the young people about the service provision they receive.

**Conducted by:**  
Manchester Metropolitan University

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

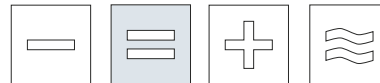


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive



# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Young people in  
secure and stable  
accommodation



Increase

Young people  
are engaged  
in education,  
employment  
or training



Increase







# EDGE OF CARE AND CHILDREN IN NEED



## FACE TO FACE PATHWAYS

Face to Face pathways is designed to embed social work systemic practice across the pathway for young people on the edge of care, in care, and leaving care. F2FP aims to work in partnership with young people and families. F2FP uses a 'predictive modelling' approach to identify young people at high risk of entry to care. Interventions include 1) An intensive Family Together Team (FTT) with children on the edge of care; 2) Training of eight systematically trained foster carers; 3) Extending care services to those aged 14-25yrs and introducing 'pathway co-ordinators', to support access to multi-agency services; 4) Improving 'business intelligence' to aid analysis.

### Conducted by:

Tilda Goldberg Centre for Social Work Care at the University of Bedfordshire

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:



Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



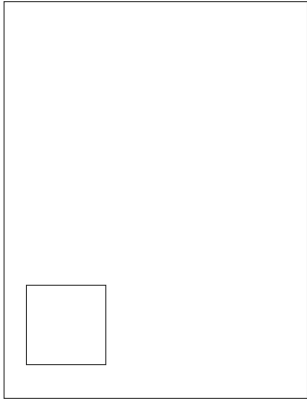
Cost benefit effect:



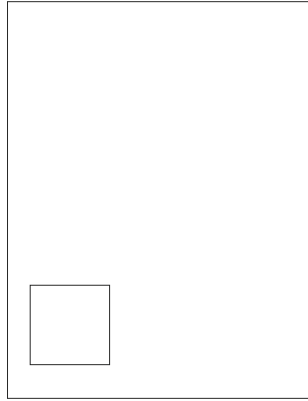
Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive



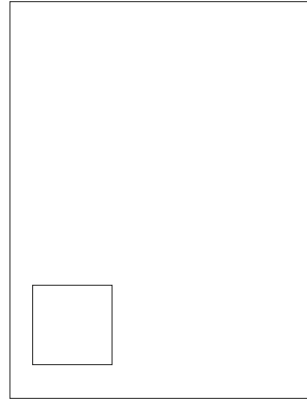
## OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



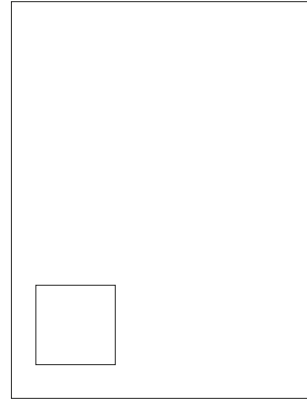
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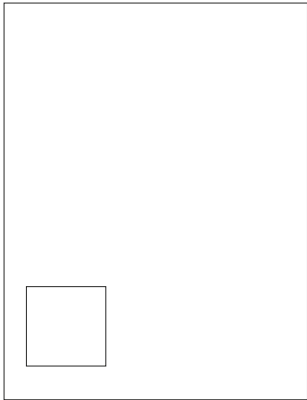
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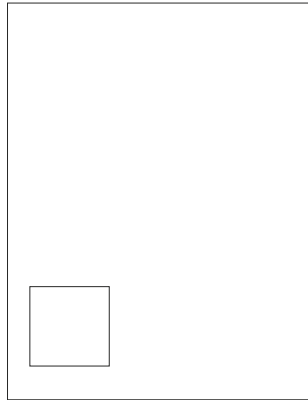
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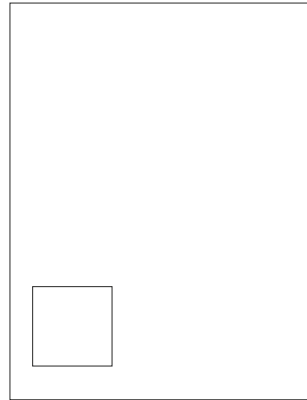
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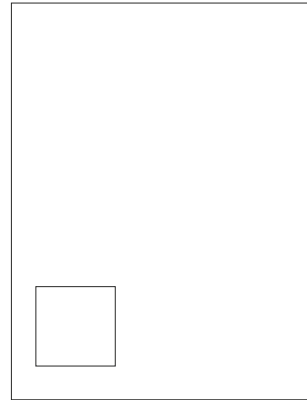
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## RIGHT BALANCE FOR FAMILIES

Right Balance for Families (RBFF) aims improve services and outcomes for Children in Need aged 10-13 years. The core elements of RBFF include intensive multi-practitioner support, family group conferences, and support including mentoring for the child.

**Conducted by:**  
Behavioural Insights Team (BIT)

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

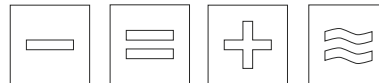


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Re-referrals



No change

Case length



No change

Escalations



No change





## FACT22

FACT22 provides support for children in need and their families, specifically targeted for those that are subject to a CIN plan that has been open for an extended period (6 months or longer), and for low level, persistent neglect. Within the model, Family Practitioners (FPs), who are non-social work qualified staff, offer more intensive support to families, and work alongside qualified Advanced Social Workers (ASWs) who hold the statutory responsibility for cases and manage a team of FPs. The focus is on improving families' experience of, and engagement with, social care support.

### Conducted by:

Behavioural Insights Team (BIT)

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

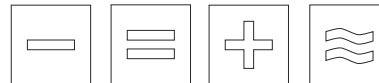


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive



# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:

Re-referrals



Decrease

Case closures



Decrease

Child in Need  
plan duration



Increase

Escalations



Increase





# FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)



## NATIONAL FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION CENTRE (NFGMC)

NFGMC aims to achieve system change in the provision of services for children and families who are affected by FGM and Harmful Practices (HPs), including breast ironing and flattening, and child abuse linked to faith or belief.

The evaluation focuses on one strand of the NFGMC's provision - the introduction of embedded specialist FGM and HP social workers, who provide information and advice; conduct direct work and support; engage in joint working with the allocated social workers; and provide specialist social work intervention.

### Conducted by:

Tilda Goldberg Centre for Social Work and Social Care, University of Bedfordshire

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

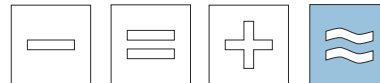


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?

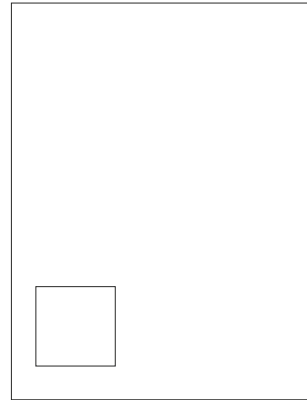
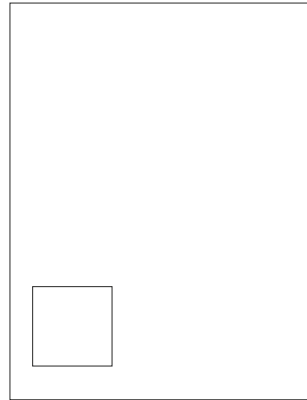
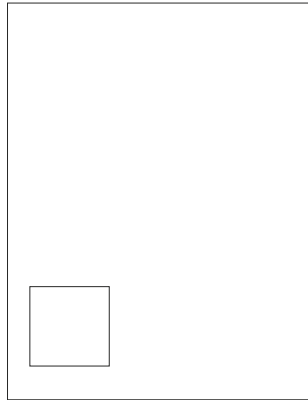
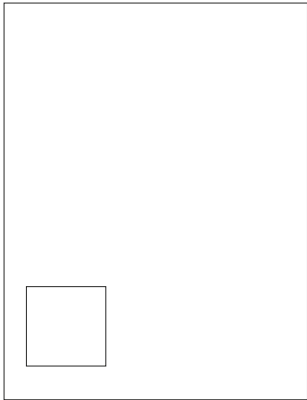
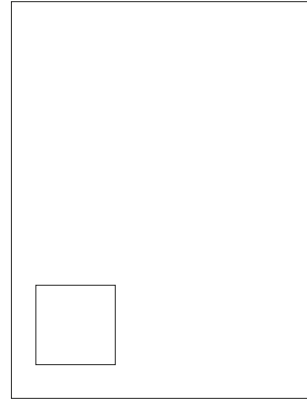
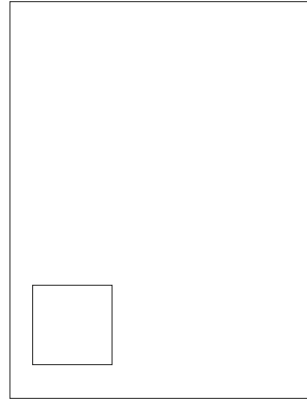
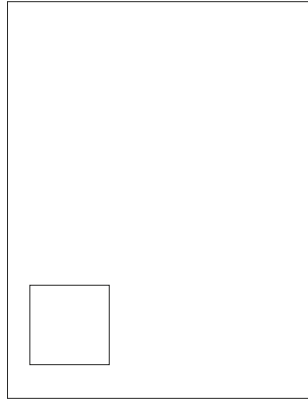
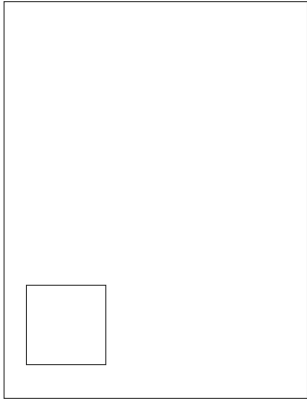


Cost benefit effect:



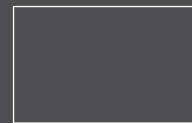
Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:





# FOSTERING AND ADOPTION





## CORAM-I

Coram-i is a series of bespoke interventions, dovetailing with already established services, in four local authorities to promote permanent/stable placements for children in long term foster care. New systems for performance management, quality assurance and joint tracking systems between teams aim to improve processes and practices. The intervention focuses in particular on delivering timely permanence meetings where required.

**Conducted by:**  
Tavistock Institute

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:



Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive



# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Placement  
stability



No change

Strengths  
and Difficulties  
Questionnaire  
scores



No change





## TACT PETERBOROUGH

TACT Peterborough is a fostering, adoption and permanency service, composed of a single team, with each social worker having a mix of cases across fostering, adoption and special guardianship orders to ensure all carers receive high quality information about children and young people. The service plan includes a) A Family Group Conference at an early stage to seek to avoid placement in local authority care; b) Strength-based assessments for young people before placement; c) Carers provided with mindfulness training and therapeutic training and incorporated in a peer-review buddy system.

**Conducted by:**  
NatCen

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:



Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Placement stability



No change

Days spent in state care

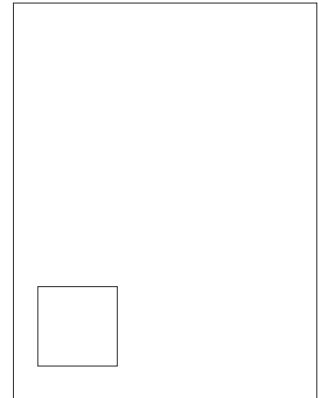
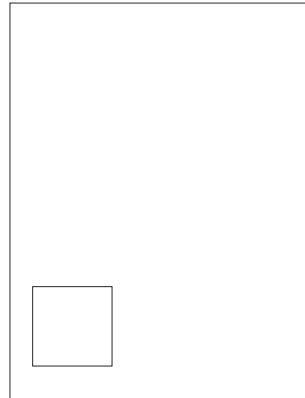
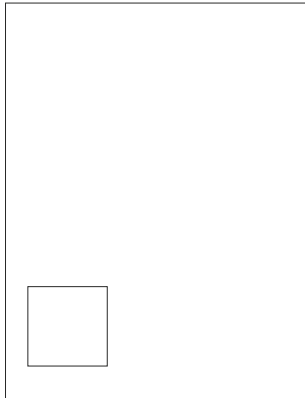
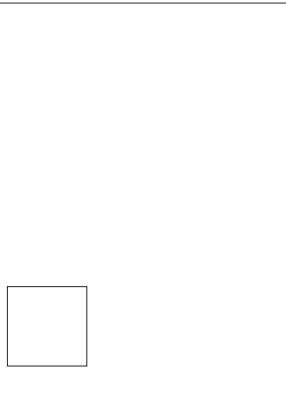


No change

Number of children in care



No change







# LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN





## MOCKINGBIRD

The Mockingbird model aims to replicate in foster care the support available through an extended family network. It creates a constellation of 6-10 satellite fostering families who are supported by one hub home that is operated by an experienced foster carer, offering planned and emergency sleepovers, advice, training and peer support. The Mockingbird programme seeks to meet the need for continuity and support for children and young people in care and for additional support for foster carers.

### Conducted by:

Rees Centre, University of Oxford  
& York Consulting

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:



Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

## OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:

Unplanned  
care endings



No change

Episodes of  
missingness



No change

Foster care  
retention



Increase









# SUPPORT FOR PARENTS FACING COMPLEX RISKS



## FAMILY SAFEGUARDING

Family Safeguarding is a whole system reform of child protection services including the integration of specialist adult workers within multidisciplinary social work teams, Motivational Interviewing, group case supervision, an Electronic Workbook and an eight module intervention programme.

**Conducted by:**  
York Consulting

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:



Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

## OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:

Police callouts



Decrease

Child Looked After



Decrease

Child Protection Plan



Decrease



## POSITIVE CHOICES

Positive Choices aims to improve the quality of support and the evidence base for work with care experienced and otherwise vulnerable first-time parents by exploring a model of early, systemic, and evidence- as well as trauma-informed intervention.

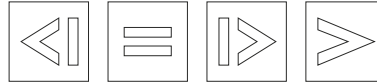
### Conducted by:

Institute of Public Care,  
Oxford Brookes University

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:



Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Children remaining  
in parent's care  
without need for  
statutory support



Increase

Children Looked After



No change

Further  
pregnancies



Decrease





## NEWDAY

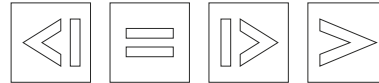
NewDAy is a whole-family domestic abuse programme which provides a non-statutory service, and takes a non-judgemental, consent-based approach to working with families experiencing domestic abuse. It is offered to couples who have experienced situational violence not connected to controlling behaviour. NewDAy consists of four parts - short-term interventions providing preliminary support; a 17-week group programme centered on gender-based violence; planned sessions with both parents informed by systemic practice and academic work; and school-focused support for children and young people.

**Conducted by:**  
Cordis Bright

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

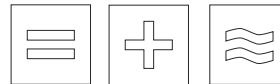


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Step-down in  
social care  
classification



Increase





## PAUSE

Pause works with women who have experienced, or are at risk of, repeated pregnancies that will result in children needing to be removed from their care. The Pause model of intensive trauma-informed relationship-based practice is delivered by practitioners over an 18 month period, and practitioners work flexibly according to women's own perspectives and priorities, with a budget allocation for each woman to spend on needs not provided for by normal services. Women who enter the programme are required to use Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC). Women also receive regular sexual health checkups.

### Conducted by:

University of Sussex

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

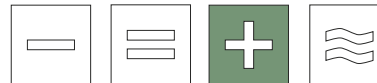


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive



## OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:

Rates of infants  
(under 12 months)  
entering care in LA



Decrease





## SAFECORE

This intervention is aimed at families with Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) as a presenting need that fall below the threshold for statutory services. SafeCORE fosters compassion, openness, responsibility and engagement in an approach addressing feedback that individuals should not only be seen as a 'perpetrator' or a 'victim', by taking a whole family approach and challenging the normalisation of 'threat' based behaviours in families. It works with the whole family, addressing the causal factors of violence by breaking the cycle of shame, threat and violence using principles from the Science of Compassion to support children and families.

### Conducted by:

UCL Evidence Based Practice Unit & CORC

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

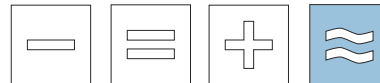


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?

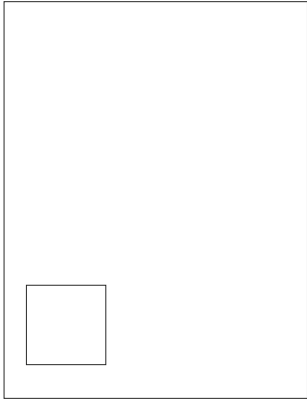


Cost benefit effect:

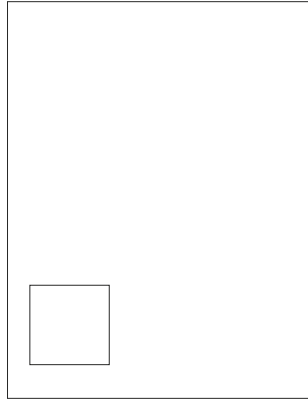


Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

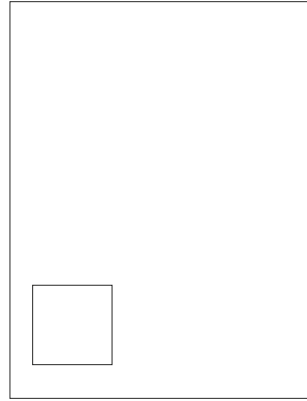
## OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



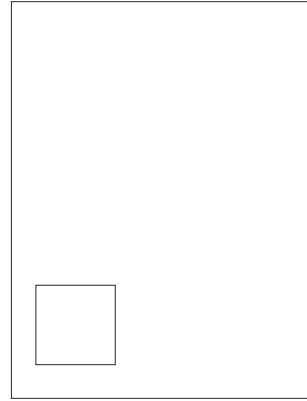
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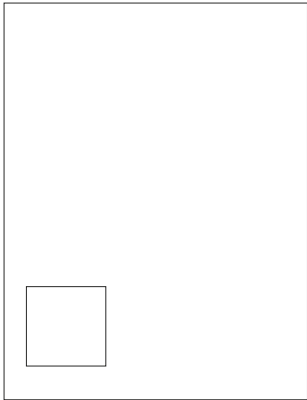
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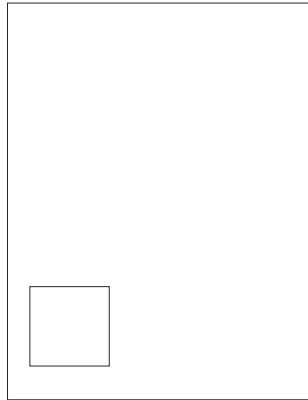
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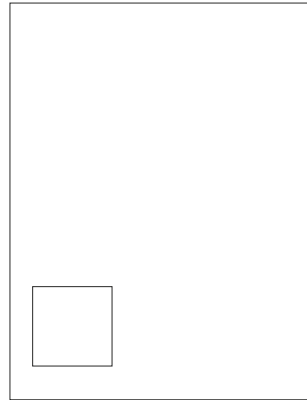
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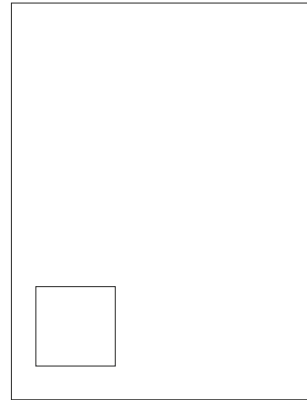
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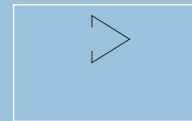
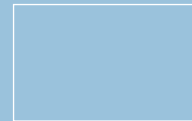


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# RESIDENTIAL CARE





## EALING BUILDING MY FUTURE

Building My Future (BMF) is a multidisciplinary, multi-agency early intervention service for young people with additional needs age 10-25 (i.e. learning difficulties, autism, and/or Asperger syndrome), who are below the the statutory threshold for social services. The team of professionals (social workers, psychologists, youth workers, speech and occupational therapists) provide support to children and young people, parents and schools for approximately six months.

**Conducted by:**  
Cordis Bright

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

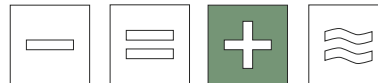


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Participation of young people with additional needs in mainstream education



No change

Wellbeing



Increase

Social care status



No change







# SOCIAL WORK SYSTEMS AND PRACTICE



## SIGNS OF SAFETY

Signs of Safety is a strengths-based, safety-organised approach to child protection casework, underpinned by collaborative work with parents/ carers and children to conduct risk assessments and safety plans that focus on a family's strengths, resources, and networks.

### Conducted by:

What Works for Children's Social Care  
& King's College London



Low

High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:

Duration of assessments



No change

Re-referrals



Inconclusive

Re-referrals that escalate to Child Protection Plan /Child Looked After



Inconclusive

Kinship care



Decrease





## REINVIGORATING SOCIAL WORK

Reinvigorating Social Work is a programme of workforce development for area-based teams to foster a relationship-based approach with a focus on appreciative enquiry and restorative practice.

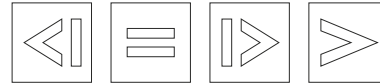
**Conducted by:**

ICF Consulting Services Ltd  
with the University of Birmingham

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

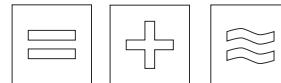


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



Rate of referrals



No change

Number on Child in Need, Child Protection Plan and Child Looked After



No change

Annual staff turnover rate



No change

Percentage of staff who are on agency contracts



No change

Caseloads per FTE worker



No change

Annual sickness absence rate



No change





## SLOUGH INSPIRING FAMILIES PROGRAMME

The Slough Inspiring Families Programme is a 10-week 'psycho-educational' group programme intended to strengthen and stabilise families where domestic abuse is a factor, with separate sessions for victims and perpetrators of abuse. Alongside delivering the Slough Inspiring Families Programme, the Domestic Abuse, Assessment, Response and Recovery (DAARR) workstream also provides other internal training and procedural reform.

**Conducted by:**  
Cordis Bright

### Was there an impact evaluation?



Quality of evaluation:

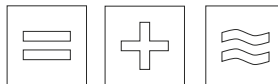


Low ..... High

### Was there a cost benefit analysis?



Cost benefit effect:



Negative ..... Positive Inconclusive

# OUTCOMES AND RESULTS:



The number of referrals a child was subject to



Increase

Escalations and de-escalations in statutory status



Increase

The episodes and amount of time (days) which the child spent in the following statutory statuses: Child in Need, Child Protection Plan and Child Looked After



No change





What Works *for*  
**Children's**  
**Social Care**

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