



## 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 experience at all, we want to hear from you.

We are seeking to recruit 7-9 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.

## 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 will 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.

Research being undertaken by the WWCSC includes evaluation of the DfE Strengthening Families, Protecting Children project to roll out whole system models of social work practice in new areas, as well as evaluation of interventions to improve the wellbeing of social care professionals, devolved budgets and placing social workers in schools. Further details of all our 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, and occasionally those commissioned to other research agencies where it is not possible for them to be reviewed by their own REC. In the first instance, the REC will be responsible for advising the Centre on the compliance of its research to the ESRC's [framework of research ethics](#). 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

In accordance with the ESRC framework, we are seeking to appoint 7-9 committee members. We are seeking a diverse membership for the committee to include:

- Parent/carer(s) or care leavers - a care leaver, or parent/carer who has had contact with children's social care
- A representative of a CYP organisation, representing the voice of the child
- Lay member(s) - members of the public with no research background or professional experience of children's social care
- Social worker(s) - qualified social workers
- Methodological member(s) - a trialist or trial statistician
- Academic member(s) – with experience in research ethics, research methodology, and research 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.

We anticipate that the panel will meet on an ad-hoc basis up to four times a year. Depending on study complexity and level of risk, review may also be made by correspondence in some cases. Meetings will be scheduled according to availability and members will have advance notice of these taking place. Meetings will be hosted at the Centre's office and secretariat provided by the Centre. Members travelling from outside of London may be able to join meetings remotely. 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 (maximum three pages) and a cover letter to [wwcprogrammes@nesta.org.uk](mailto:wwcprogrammes@nesta.org.uk) by no later than 2nd March 2020.

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