

What Works for Children's Social Care & Early Intervention Foundation: Joining Forces

Earlier this year What Works for Children's Social Care (WWCSC) and the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) were delighted to announce their decision in principle to merge to create a single 'What Works Centre' on children and families covering both early intervention and children's social care.

Who are What Works for Children's Social Care

WWCSC seeks to improve the lives of children and their families through setting standards in research and generating and collating the best evidence in children's social care.

Who are the Early Intervention Foundation

EIF champions and supports the use of effective early intervention to improve the lives of children and young people at risk of experiencing negative outcomes.

Creating a new 'What Works Centre'

Improving support for children and families requires a strong, authoritative What Works Centre able to support effective policy and practice across the whole system. The merger will bring together our two What Works Centres to create a single organisation covering the full range of support for children and families, including preventative approaches, early intervention and targeted support for those at risk of poor outcomes, through to child protection and children's social care services. This need was reflected in the recent Independent Review of Children's Social Care.

What we hope to achieve

- Our new centre - which will operate initially under the working name of What Works for Early Intervention and Children's Social Care - will have the capacity and expertise required to address evidence gaps across a broader, more holistic view of interventions and support for children and families
- As a single organisation, we will be better placed to support the direction of travel following the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, and the ambition to bring together and strengthen direct support available to families across the early help and social work systems
- We will bring the best of EIF and WWCSC to the new organisation, building on the strong work that both centres have delivered since their inception: conducting high-quality research, understanding the sector, and connecting the dots between national policy and local delivery

Next steps

- We were pleased to announce recently that a new senior leadership team has been appointed to oversee the merger process: Josh MacAlister and Dr Jo Casebourne have been appointed as executive chair and CEO, respectively, of the new organisation. WWCSC and EIF will be working together over the coming months to develop a strategy for the new centre.

For more information, or if you would like to discuss this further, please contact james.somerville@whatworks-csc.org.uk