

What Works Centre for Children's Social Care

Welcome to our new-look What Works Centre e-newsletter

Many thanks for your ongoing interest in the development of the What Works Centre. I am delighted to update you on major progress with the set-up of the Centre.

Sir Alan Wood – Founding Chair

Sir Alan Wood, former President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services, has been appointed as the Founding Chair of the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care.

As the Founding Chair, Alan will oversee the development of the Centre through to full independence by 2020. Alan, who has over 40 years' experience in children's social care at local and national level, was appointed following a competitive process, including being interviewed by a panel of children and young people.

The other initial members of the Founding Board are:

- **Kersten England**, Chief Executive, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council and Nesta Trustee
- **Sally Hodges**, Director of Children's Services and Skills, Solihull Metropolitan District Council

- **Isabelle Trowler**, Chief Social Worker for England (Children & Families),
Department for Education

[Read the press release about the appointment](#)

"I'm looking forward to coming around to meet with you"

[Watch Sir Alan's vlog](#)

"We must address the many gaps in the evidence base that we know to exist"

[Read Sir Alan's blog](#)

"I was part of a group of young people who interviewed the Founding Chair. It's not every day young people get such an opportunity" [Read Fanso's blog](#)

[Find out more about the Founding Board](#)

Website and Twitter

We have published the first version of the Centre's website. This is a 'beta' version, and we will continue to develop it in consultation with the sector. Please do visit the website, and share it via your channels and networks.

www.whatworks-csc.org.uk

The Centre also has a new Twitter account at **[@WhatWorksCSC](#)**. Please follow us, comment and retweet.

Stakeholder views

The Centre has also published a summary of key messages from its stakeholder engagement work to date. Over 300 people have been involved so far – including children, young people, families, front line practitioners, leaders and researchers.

Key themes that emerged included: the importance of working with the sector, rather than doing 'to' or 'for' the sector; keeping children at the heart of what the Centre will do; and have a strong, realistic focus on implementation and improving practice, allowing for local context and nuance.

You can **[read the report on the Centre's website](#)**.

Local authority partners to be announced

The Centre development team will shortly announce local authority partners with whom work to develop the Centre. The local authority partners will be selected following a recent expression of interest. They will work with the Centre to develop and test approaches to generating, sharing and using evidence more effectively. We will of course be in contact with further details.

Once again, many thanks for your ongoing support with this critical project.

Finally, please do share this information with your colleagues and networks and encourage them to visit our new website, follow the Centre on Twitter and [sign up for the Centre's e-newsletter to get the latest news](#) – including opportunities to get involved.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Wilkinson

Programme Director – Development Team

[What Works Centre for Children's Social Care](#)

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