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Cambridgeshire County Council has been selected as one of only 21 local authorities and trusts to work with the new *What Works Centre for Children's Social Care* to develop, research, and test products and services that support and encourage the use of evidence in children's social work practice.

We will work with the Centre's Research Partner (CASCADE at Cardiff University) to explore what makes good supervision and how it supports informed decision making and makes a difference for children and families. We will also support the design and development of a digital peer-to-peer platform to enable social workers to access a wider network of quality assured advice.

"I'm delighted that our commitment to evidence-led social work practice has been recognised in our selection as a wave one partner contributing to the What Works Centre. The focus of our research will be on understanding how supervision helps with decision making and how staff work together to choose the best approach. This work is vital as it will inform how decisions are made to protect and safeguard children and young people, not just in Cambridgeshire but across the UK, to ensure that they receive the best care and can achieve their potential."

Cllr Simon Bywater, Chairman of the Children and Young People Committee, Cambridgeshire County Council

Speaking about the partnerships, Sir Alan Wood, recently-appointed Founding Chair of the Centre, said:

"We are delighted that local authorities and trusts have shown such a high level of interest in working with the Centre. These initial partnerships will help and support local leaders and practitioners to ensure that we most effectively meet the needs of children and families. They are partners who will explore, co-design and test promising ideas rapidly with us. That includes ideas for our future products and services to help expand the use of evidence such as online evidence, peer-to-peer networking, and self-evaluation toolkits. And it includes developing insights into the kinds of interventions already being used, and exploring new ideas that could be tested and evaluated in more depth."

The Centre will share learning from the partnerships as they progress, including what is proving promising, and why and how the approach may have been adapted as a result of what the Centre has learned. The full press release is available here -<https://whatworks-csc.org.uk/whats-new/blog/21-local-partners-to-work-with-new-centre> (<https://whatworks-csc.org.uk/whats-new/blog/21-local-partners-to-work-with-new-centre>)

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