



January 2013

Request for Practice Examples: deadline 22 February 2013

Improving frontline social work practice and supervision in safeguarding

Context

Since its inception, the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO) has been collecting examples of the best local practice and putting these through its robust process of validation – publishing only those examples which provide clear evidence of making a difference to children, young people and families. Now supported by the National Children's Bureau (NCB), C4EO continues to work with NCB and the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to identify, validate and share effective practice currently taking place in local areas and to share this with others.

Request

Working alongside the Children's Improvement Board, C4EO is currently keen to receive practice examples – from local authorities and their partner agencies in the public, voluntary and/or private sector – which have been introduced to improve the wellbeing and life chances of children, young people and their families by increasing capacity in frontline social work practice and improving supervision in safeguarding.

We are particularly keen to hear from local areas who have:

- Used “champions” or “change agents” at Team Leader/Manager level as part of an improvement programme on social work supervision and practice. These may be consultants, appointed associates, interim appointments, or secondments both from within the agency and external to it.
- Used peer secondment or regional support programmes to provide peer to peer support and to coach, support and mentor social work and safeguarding colleagues.
- Worked to ensure sustained peer contact within a framework of professional development and reflective practice, learning and workforce development, which has had a tangible impact on service outcomes.

Submit an example of effective practice

If you would like to submit a practice example in response to this call, you can download the submission form from the C4EO website www.c4eo.org.uk and send it to C4EOTeam@nfer.ac.uk, or complete the form online.

Forms are designed to enable you to describe your practice and tell us why you believe it is successful and has had an impact. To be validated, practice examples need to be supported by some good evidence which shows how and why the outcomes and changes have been achieved for children and young people. Also, if you have it, do send or include a summary of the key findings from any other substantiating evidence such as an internal or external review, assessment or evaluation report. We need sufficient information to apply the validation criteria but do not need lots of detailed paperwork or lengthy descriptions. Your submission needs to be succinct and focused on the points you wish to get across to the validation panel. We are therefore restricting additional documents sent with your submission to two only.

Guidance on completing your submission is also available within the submission form but, if you have any queries or need support filling in the form, please do not hesitate to contact the C4EO Team at NFER on 01753 637178 or C4EOteam@nfer.ac.uk

The final deadline for submission of practice examples in response to this call is **Friday 22 February 2013**.

About C4EO

The Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services provides a range of products and support services to improve outcomes. C4EO combines excellence in local practice with national research and data about 'what works' and gathers this in one place. It shares this evidence and the best of local practice with all those who work with and for children and young people and provides practical 'hands on support' to help local areas make full use of this evidence. C4EO has quickly established itself as a best practice hub for 'what works' in children's services and is used by all local authorities across England.

Heather Rushton
Director, C4EO