

March 2012

Request for Practice Examples

Context

WAVE Trust and C4EO are dedicated to improving outcomes for children and families through the promotion of evidence-based interventions at the earliest possible time, both pre- and post- birth, with a particular emphasis on primary prevention*. Our knowledge base of global best-practice programmes is extensive, as can be seen from C4EO's 2010 report, *Grasping the Nettle* and Wave Trust's *International Experience of Early Intervention Children, Young People and their Families*, also published in 2010, commissioned by C4EO. We are now keen to add to this evidence base with actual experience from those responsible for delivering services to families during the period from conception to three years of age.

WAVE has been funded by the BIG Lottery, with the support of the Departments for Education and Health, to run a high profile national conference on primary prevention in London on 13 June 2012. The agenda includes an opportunity to share learning and evaluation methods and to showcase examples of local practice that reach a high standard. There will also be an opportunity to highlight further effective practice at a series of regional events later in the year.

*Primary Prevention = 'Interventions which ward off the initial onset of a disorder' (i.e. stopping harm before it happens)

Request

We are keen to receive examples of practice on:

- Services and activities that are proven to reduce high stress levels in pregnancy, for example as a result of domestic violence, depression and anxiety
- Initiatives that improve the quality, training and supervision of the early years workforce
- Initiatives that improve levels of breastfeeding

- Approaches which ensure maternity hospitals and/or ante-natal clinics prepare parents-to-be for parenting, with particular emphasis on infant social and emotional development
- Programmes which support bonding between mothers and babies
- Evidence-based parenting programmes being implemented in specific localities
- Examples of effective, efficient and integrated multi-agency working that improve outcomes for children and families.

Why collect and use local practice examples?

C4EO believes that there is invaluable evidence based in experience and practice in local authorities, health organisations and in other organisations working in the children and young people's sector. Moreover, local knowledge and practice on 'what works' is often ahead of that contained in research reports. We wish to mobilise and share this valuable local resource and use it to complement and extend the formal research evidence available to the sector.

We need, however, to ensure that the local examples can demonstrate the achievements (outcomes; results) of effective practice. This is where 'validation' comes in. It is a two-stage process:

- The self-validation stage, when local areas set out their examples in a consistent format.
- The external validation stage, when practice examples are received and evaluated by C4EO, before moving on to a panel of C4EO sector specialists who assess that sufficient and appropriate detail is provided by the practice account.

To be validated, practice examples need to be supported by some evidence which shows the outcomes and changes that have been achieved for children and young people.

How do I submit an example of effective practice?

Either by:

- Completing the online submission form on the C4EO website
- Downloading a submission form from the C4EO website and emailing it to C4EOteam@nfer.ac.uk

Forms are available [online](#) and are designed to enable you to describe your practice and tell us why you believe it is successful. We really want examples where there is good evidence and some documentation on how and why the practice has worked to improve outcomes, so the more that you can tell us

about this, the better. Also, if you have it, do send us any other substantiating evidence such as an internal or external review, assessment or evaluation report. We do not, however, need lots of detailed paperwork. Please do not be put off if you do not have this; just complete the form as fully as possible.

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

We look forward to receiving your practice example by **the end of July 2012**.

Christine Davies, CBE
Chief Executive, C4EO

Sophie Andrews
Deputy CEO, WAVE