

# Increasing the impact of the What Works network across the UK

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### Summary

- This report summarises the learning from an ESRC Strategic Fund project led by the Wales Centre for Public Policy in partnership with Queen's University Belfast, What Works Scotland, and the Alliance for Useful Evidence.
- Through a series of summits with policy makers and practitioners featuring evidence from the What Works network, this project aimed to:
  - Foster greater collaboration among What Works Centres.
  - Increase awareness of the What Works network in devolved nations.
- Five summits were held in 2018-19 in Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland on youth homelessness, early years, youth mental health, children and young people's outcomes, and local economic performance. A final roundtable was held with the Directors of What Works Centres, Executive Chair of the ESRC, ESRC Director of Research, National What Works Adviser and other key stakeholders to discuss the findings and ways to build on them.
- The summits showed that What Works Centres face a number of challenges in engaging with policy makers and practitioners in the devolved countries.

- What Works Centres rated the summits as 'extremely useful' or 'very useful' and reported that they had helped to foster relationships within the network.
- The summits showed that there is a high level of interest in What Works evidence in devolved nations.
- Most policymakers and practitioners who participated rated them 'extremely useful' or 'very useful'.
- There was relatively low awareness of What Works Centres among devolved audiences prior to the summits.
   Awareness increased as a result of them.
- Most participants said that they planned to use what they had learnt at the summit to inform their practice.
- Ways to encourage further
   collaboration between What Works
   Centres could involve pooling
   resources (e.g. joint trials), sharing
   advice and learning (e.g. for new
   Centres), and improving the reach of
   Centres (e.g. enabling audiences
   easily to access evidence from
   multiple Centres).
- The benefits for What Works Centres
   of working in devolved nations include
   the opportunity to learn from others
   and to exploit divergence in
   comparative analysis and trial

#### Introduction

This report summarises findings from an ESRC Strategic Fund project led by the Wales Centre for Public Policy in partnership with Queen's University Belfast, What Works Scotland, and the Alliance for Useful Evidence. The project aimed to increase the impact of the What Works network across the UK through a series of summits involving What Works Centres and policy makers and practitioners from devolved nations.

Most What Works Centres have a remit to work UK-wide but policy makers and practitioners in devolved countries are often unaware of the outputs they produce. Some regard the What Works Network as a UK government initiative that is not relevant to their evidence needs.

As a result, devolved administrations are not making the most of the evidence produced by the network, and What Works Centres are missing out on opportunities to test what works outside England. The Cabinet Office and some What Works Centres have successfully promoted the What Works approach internationally. The summits sought to complement this by increasing the visibility and impact of the What Works Network across the UK by:

- 1 Fostering collaboration among What Works Centres.
- Increasing awareness of the What Works network among policy makers and practitioners in devolved nations.

Five summits were held in Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland between November 2018-June 2019 (Table 1). Each event involved presentations from least two What Works Centres, and a brief overview of the What Works network. In total, nine What Works Centres and approximately 330 attendees were involved.

A roundtable was held in London in October 2019 involving What Works Centres, the ESRC, Cabinet Office, and representatives from devolved administrations, to share learning from the five summits and discuss how the What Works network can increase its reach in devolved nations, and how further collaboration between What Works Centres might be encouraged and supported. This report provides a summary of the discussion at the roundtable.

A brief summary of each summit and the roundtable can be found in the Annex.

Table 1: The summits

Date	Topic	Location	What Works Centres presenting	Number of attendees
November 2018	Youth homelessness	Newport, Wales	Centre for Homelessness Impact Wales Centre for Public Policy What Works Wellbeing	60
February 2019	Early years	Belfast, Northern Ireland	Education Endowment Foundation Early Intervention Foundation NICE	80
April 2019	Place-based approaches to children and young people's outcomes	Glasgow, Scotland	What Works Scotland Wales Centre for Public Policy	65
May 2019	Youth mental health	Belfast, Northern Ireland	What Works Centre for Children's Social Care What Works Wellbeing NICE	100
June 2019	Local economic performance	Cardiff, Wales	What Works Local Economic Growth Wales Centre for Public Policy	25

### **Evaluation**

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the summits in achieving the project's aims, we used a combination of pre and post-event surveys and interviews with presenters from the What Works Centres and the policy makers and practitioners who participated in them (see Table 2).

Table 2: Evaluation methods

Project aim	Methods used	Response rates (where known)
	Pre-summit telephone interviews with What Works Centre presenters	85%
Increase collaboration between What	Post-summit online questionnaire (immediately after summit) with What Works Centre presenters	79%
Works Centres	Post-summit telephone interviews (2-3 months after each summit) with What Works Centre presenters	62%
	Pre-summit online questionnaire with those registered	39%
Improve the reach of the What Works network in devolved nations	Post-summit paper and online questionnaires with attendees (at end of summit and immediately after)	28%
	Post-summit (2-3 months afterwards) telephone interviews with sample of attendees	45% <sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 45% of those who agreed to be interviewed in the follow-up questionnaire then took part in an interview.

Through these methods we investigated the direct impacts of the summits in the short-term (immediately after) and the long-term. We planned to compare each participant's pre- and post-event survey responses. However, whilst 111 respondents gave their email addresses in the pre-summit survey, only 23 of these did so in the post-summit survey. This number is too low to draw meaningful before/after analysis conclusions, so we have reported aggregate responses rather than analysing the data from matched pre and post-event responses.

#### Impacts on What Works Centres

What Works Centres hoped to use the summits to learn more about other What Works Centres, raise their profile in devolved nations, and inform their future work programmes.

A large majority (80%) of participating **Centres reported the summits had been 'extremely useful' or 'very useful'**. Most said that hearing from other speakers was the most useful element of the summit. They also felt that they had provided new evidence and ideas to policy makers and practitioners, that there was a good range of organisations represented at each event, and that the summits demonstrated that there is demand for events like these in devolved nations.

Because each summit was a stand-alone event, the audience for each one was different and each one involved a different combination of What Works Centres. There was also no resource allocated for follow-up to help participants embed the evidence they had heard about in their organisations. One Centre suggested:

In future meetings it would be useful to have a session on 'what next'. I often find that when attending these kind of events there are always a lot of great ideas and approaches, and people (both presenters and attendees) are very excited about implementing change – however rarely are things followed up in practice (What Works Centre).

#### Impact on engagement in devolved nations

Prior to the summits, most What Works Centres had had some engagement with policy makers and practitioners in devolved nations. This included working with local and national governments on adapting What Works Centre outputs for devolved nations, speaking at events, delivering training, and advising local organisations. However, they **reported challenges in working in (other) devolved nations**. The most common constraint was the lack of specific funding to work in devolved nations. Applying for funding of this kind had proved challenging partly because not understanding the policy context in devolved nations was felt to be an impediment to putting together a strong funding bid. Gaining this knowledge

was difficult to prioritise, especially for smaller What Works Centres and those which were engaged in busy programmes of work for Whitehall departments and other stakeholders. This was compounded by a lack of natural 'routes' into policy makers and practitioners in devolved nations, which meant that it took time and staff resource to build relationships from scratch

While there were some examples of the summits consolidating existing relationships with policy makers and practitioners, **there were no examples of entirely new relationships being developed**. Again, the lack of funding to work in devolved nations was cited as a reason for this. One What Works Centre told us that while their funder wouldn't mind them taking part in a one-off event, they would be unlikely to support more significant engagement. Another said that their funding model makes it difficult for them simply to have interesting conversations with others – any engagement with others needs to turn into a "fundable proposition" fairly quickly.

Some What Works Centres had been prompted by the questions and discussions at the summits to think differently about aspects of their work. One described how they had had a conversation at a summit about comparing the cost-effectiveness of different interventions, and had pursued further work on this as a result. Another was planning to consider whether their dissemination activity for an upcoming publication should also involve devolved audiences, something they hadn't previously factored in.

#### Impact on engagement with other What Works Centres

The evaluation of the summits showed that they had stimulated discussions between What Works Centres, providing opportunities to consolidate existing relationships and build new ones. They were seen as an opportunity not just for the What Works Centres to present their work to new audiences, but also to learn from other participating Centres:

It was great to hear from people grappling with similar issues and to see the potential for learning from the available evidence and from each other. (What Works Centre)

One Centre told us that they could "draw a straight line" from one of the summits to joint projects they had subsequently initiated with another What Works Centre they had met there. At a different summit, an interviewee described how hearing a presentation from another What Works Centre sparked an idea about the way they measure certain outcomes, which has informed their work.

Centres collaborate in a range of ways from light-touch engagement, such as acting peerreviewing work for each other, participating in advisory boards or working groups, or putting together a joint response to a government consultation, to more in-depth engagement such as analysing each other's data, sharing office space, and developing joint projects and funding bids. But they reported that it was often difficult to make the time and find the resources for collaborative activities in addition to the main programmes of work for which they were funded. Some also cited differences in evidence standards and the types of evidence they used as barriers to collaboration.

#### Impact on policymakers and practitioners

#### **Knowledge of What Works Centres**

The summits undoubtedly increased knowledge of What Works Centres among policy makers and practitioners in the devolved nations from a very low base. Almost a quarter (23%) of those who completed the pre-summit survey had not heard of any of the Centres and only 14% said that they knew of four or more Centres. Just 11% said they had used evidence from What Works Centres. After the summits, almost half of respondents (48%) said that they had now heard of four or more Centres.

#### How useful they found the event (and why)

Respondents gave several reasons for attending the summits. The most commonly cited (by 79% of respondents) was to increase their knowledge of the topic. Only 13% said they wanted to increase their knowledge of accessing, using, or producing evidence and just 12% that they had come into order to find out more about the What Works network.

Encouragingly a very large majority (82%) rated the summits as 'extremely useful' or 'very useful'. This was generally because they gained knowledge of the topic. Fewer than a quarter (22%) said they appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the network.

It was beneficial to hear from those directly informing policy and seeing how statistical analysis can strengthen our case for the work that we do. Networking is always positive too. (Summit attendee)

Most (86%) respondents said that they planned to use what they had learnt at the summit to inform their practice:

I know a lot more about a range of other research that is available and where to easily access it. Will definitely be making use of this in the future. (Summit attendee)

Interviewees gave some examples of ways they had used evidence as a result of the summit, such as by using evidence they'd heard to inform the development of multi-purpose hubs in community settings, and using What Works materials in teaching undergraduates. Others said they made useful contacts at the summits.

Several of those interviewed after the summits said that they **appreciated being able to learn from others at the events**, and especially from those working in different contexts and jurisdictions, because it reassured them to hear that others faced the same challenges they did. One voluntary sector representative told us that she appreciated being involved with the What Works network and events like these because community settings can often feel isolated from academia. She said that the network enables her to feel part of "something bigger" and access relevant, up-to-date evidence that's useful for her work. Perhaps reflecting this, some participants reported that they would have preferred more time for interaction and discussion with other policy makers and practitioners:

Would have been good to have more time to chat/network with everyone. Thought the conversation around what practitioners need to put evidence into practice could have had more time, as could the discussion about how evidence can support policy and decision makers. (Summit attendee)

Some practitioners felt that some presentations were "too academic" and highlighted the need for What Works Centres and other researchers to make their work relevant to practitioners, such as by avoiding overly technical language to communicate evidence. Some participants said that they would like What Works Centres to give more attention to the practical challenges of implementing evidence-informed programmes.

## Roundtable on collaboration and engagement with devolved nations

This section summarises the key points that were made at the roundtable which we convened to reflect on the lessons learnt from the summits with the Directors of What Works Centres, ESRC, Cabinet Office and others.

#### Collaboration between What Works Centres

It was noted there is a range of existing collaborations between What Works Centres, ranging from light-touch approaches based on 'doing things together', to harmonisation of language around evidence, to more in-depth approaches which mean changing what you do

as a result of working with others. Examples of these different approaches are detailed below under 'How?'. It was agreed that collaboration – of various kinds – is worthwhile, but noted that there needs to be a clear purpose and it has to be properly resourced.

#### Why collaborate?

The main ways of collaborating among What Works Centres that were discussed were: pooling resources, maximising learning, and improving reach.

Suggestions for **pooling resources** included sharing data and running joint trials. This could help avoid 'contamination', for example between separate initiatives promoted by Centres that are focused on young people. Joint trials can also show where interventions achieve multiple outcomes or have negative interaction effects (for example, improving attainment but reducing wellbeing).

Collaboration also provides a way to **maximise learning.** It was suggested that new Centres benefit from practical advice from more established Centres and that there is scope for sharing networks as well as knowledge. Several Centres have networks and an understanding of the policy priorities in devolved nations or specific English cities/regions, and there would be benefit in sharing these.

Finally, collaboration can **improve the reach** of What Works Centres by making it easier for audiences to access evidence from multiple Centres in ways that transcend professional 'silos' and Centres' bi-lateral links with government departments.

## Engaging with devolved nations and place-based approaches

As noted above, several Centres work with specific areas – either because they are funded by devolved governments or have developed partnerships with localities or regions. As such, the network has a shared interest in place-based approaches to evidence mobilisation.

The different regions and nations of the UK face shared economic and social challenges which means that evidence that What Works Centres generate in one part of the UK is likely to be useful to other areas. The high level of interest in the What Works summits – which attracted more than 300 attendees, many of whom were not aware of What Works Centres prior to the events – bears this out and demonstrates that there is a strong demand in devolved nations for evidence from the What Works network.

There are also potential benefits for What Works Centres in engaging with different parts of the UK. In particular it can provide opportunities to test the applicability of evidence in different contexts and to exploit divergence as a source of comparative analysis and trials. And, as noted above, there is potential for What Works Centres to share each other's local knowledge, contacts and networks.

## Conclusions and suggested next steps

The Strategic Fund project sought to facilitate collaboration among What Works Centres and increase the reach of the network in devolved nations. The summits involved nine What Works Centres and reached around 330 participants from government, public services, research institutions, and charities in devolved nations. The summits were positively received by What Works Centres and audiences in devolved nations. They provided an opportunity for What Works Centres to engage with devolved nations and strengthened some of the relationships between Centres.

Our evaluation of and reflections on this project highlight three key conclusions that we hope will be useful to inform future investment in the network.

## Benefits of working with local host organisations in widening reach of What Works Centres

By working with local hosts (the Wales Centre for Public Policy, Campbell Collaboration at Queen's University Belfast, and What Works Scotland), the summits were able to draw in a wide audience from their local contacts, most of whom were not familiar with the wider What Works network. This provided an opportunity for other What Works Centres to reach new audiences and highlights the benefits of Centres outside London using connections between other What Works Centres and local policy makers and practitioners. All three host organisations had strong networks of practitioners, researchers, and policy makers, and the summits bridged these three communities effectively.

We also found that combining inputs from local speakers – drawn from the host Centre's networks – with contributions from What Works Centres helped to ensure that evidence was seen to be relevant to policy priorities and contexts in the devolved nations.

## Funding is not the only barrier to collaboration or engagement with devolved nations

Although most What Works Centres are able to work UK-wide, only a small number regularly work across devolved nations. This project aimed to address one of the barriers to working in

devolved nations by providing a small pot of funding for Centres to participate in the summits. Centres were offered remuneration for their preparation time and for attending the event, plus travel and other expenses. However, some declined involvement in the summits, and others which did participate did not invoice for their time. It may be that the amount of money offered was negligible and therefore not considered worth claiming, that Centres are able to self-fund such relatively limited involvement in projects, or that their funding models already covered this kind of work. This suggests that small amounts of additional funding may not be sufficient (or even necessary) to facilitate engagement with devolved nations, unless they build on existing or planned activity. The main barrier seems to be that Centres are already working at full capacity on other work programmes and find it difficult to free up staff time for relatively small-scale initiatives like the summits.

## Challenges in encouraging shared learning across devolved nations

We hoped to encourage cross-jurisdictional learning through the project by inviting two representatives from each devolved nation to attend each summit. The summit in Glasgow on children and young people's outcomes focused on place-based approaches and the host organisation had good contacts in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and England who could speak to the topic, and so the speakers as well as the attendees were drawn from the four nations. However, this was not the case at the other events, where there were very few and in some cases no attendees from the other devolved nations. This highlights the time pressures on policy makers and practitioners who find it difficult to travel to events outside of their own countries. In spite of these practical difficulties, there is interest in cross-jurisdictional learning and it would be worth the What Works network experimenting with other means of encouraging and facilitating it.

#### **Next steps**

Below we draw on discussions at the What Works roundtable to suggest some next steps which could help to increase collaboration and engagement with devolved nations.

What Works Centres might collaborate further through:

- Building common data architecture.
- Sharing office space, such as the Evidence Quarter, which recognises that collaboration rarely happens by accident, and can be cultivated and resourced in shared spaces.
- Identifying ways of joining up work based on shared outcomes, lifecourse, or placebased approaches (see below).

 Comprehensive mapping of the What Works Centres' aims, activities, audiences, to highlight gaps in the evidence landscape which might be filled by creating new What Works Centres and extending the remit of existing Centres, better understanding the value of the current network, and identifying further opportunities for collaboration.

#### Better engagement with devolved nations and places could be encouraged by:

- What Works Centres having embedded posts with credible, established partner organisations.
- Investing in relationship building between What Works Centres and policy makers and practitioners in devolved nations and localities across the UK, with a focus on how Centres' work can help particular places.
- Increased What Works Centre engagement with existing networks in devolved governments and localities.
- Increasing signposting of What Works evidence and making connections between other What Works Centres and policy makers and practitioners in devolved nations and other places. This might also mean finding a way for What Works Centres to share contacts in different areas.
- Creating a digital hub where information about all the What Works Centres can be
  accessed on a 'neutral' site which is accessible to and trusted by policy makers and
  practitioners in all four nations of the UK, and is promoted actively by the network.

## **Annex: Summit descriptions**

#### Youth homelessness summit

Date: 13 February 2019

**Location:** Belfast

Context

This first summit, hosted by Wales Centre for Public Policy, focused on youth homelessness for a number of reasons. At that time, significant attention was being paid to the challenges of homelessness in Wales, with the End Youth Homelessness Cymru campaign ongoing, the then First Minister's announcement of how the Welsh Government's £10 million investment to help end youth homelessness by 2027 would be spent, and local authorities in Wales developing their homelessness prevention strategies, following the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. Several What Works Centres had recent evidence related to youth homelessness which they felt was relevant to policy makers and practitioners in Wales.

#### Format and speakers

This day-long summit involved presentations from local and international experts and What Works Centres, as well as facilitated group discussions. Attendees were invited to ask questions following each presentation. Speakers were from the following organisations:

- Llamau
- Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and Wales Centre for Public Policy
- Centre for Homelessness Impact
- · What Works Wellbeing

#### **Participants**

Approximately 60 people attended this summit from around 25 different organisations. This included representatives from 16 (of 22) Welsh local authorities as well as homelessness charities, housing associations (including young people involved with housing associations), and health boards.

#### Early years summit

Date: 13 February 2019

**Location:** Belfast

Context

This summit focused on the early years of children's development. At the time of the summit the Northern Ireland Executive was producing a revised Strategy for Children and Young People and a new Family and Parenting Support Strategy, which would outline the government's approach and policy for early years. As such this summit on early years was timely in helping to inform these strategies.

#### Format and speakers

This day-long summit involved presentations from local and international practitioners and academics and What Works Centres, as well as facilitated group workshops to inform future research on early years. Attendees were invited to ask questions following each presentation. The speakers covered a range of issues and were from the following organisations:

- Education Endowment Foundation
- · University of Ulster
- Sure Start
- NICE
- Campbell Collaboration
- Queen's University Belfast
- Early Intervention Foundation

#### **Particpants**

80 participants from 22 organisations representing government departments, voluntary and community sector, local government, health and social care trusts and political parties.

This summit was filmed and the video can be found at http://bit.ly/wwsummitearlyyears.

## Children and young people: using research and evidence to make change happen

**Date:** 30 April 2019 **Location:** Glasgow

#### Context

This summit shared the most recent insights and learning on what works in place-based approaches to improving outcomes for children and young people. It also explored how we can use evidence to support change to happen and the best way to collect and present that evidence. The theme was selected because place is now used increasingly across all four UK jurisdictions as a focus for interventions: if poverty is spatially concentrated then so too should be the response to poverty. One area where this has been most pronounced is the provision of services for children in areas of high social deprivation. Influenced by the success of other area-based children's projects, in particular the Harlem Children's Zone, many localities are now developing their own interpretation. This summit sought to draw on examples of this, from Manchester, where the local authority has worked with Save the Children to develop and establish children's zones, to Belfast, where the Shankill and Colin Community Projects have established children's zones, to Wales where the Welsh Government have established Children First pioneer projects, and to Glasgow, where Children's Neighbourhoods are being developed.

#### Format and speakers

Hosted by What Works Scotland, this day-long summit involved presentations from What Works Centres, academics, and policy makers and practitioners in all four nations of the UK. Attendees were invited to ask questions following each presentation. Children from a local primary school who are involved in a research project with Children's Neighbourhoods Scotland also joined at lunchtime to speak to attendees. Speakers were from the following organisations?

- What Works Scotland
- · Children's Neighbourhoods Scotland
- Wales Centre for Public Policy
- Children First, Wales
- Millbrook Primary School, Newport
- Colin Early Intervention Community, Belfast

- University of Manchester
- Queen's University, Belfast
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Shankill Children and Young People's Zone, Belfast

#### **Participants**

Around 65 people attended from local councils, universities, charities, funders, and the Scottish Government.

#### Youth mental health summit

**Date:** 14 May 2019

**Location:** Belfast

#### Context

Mental illness is a major public health issue in Northern Ireland (NI) and is the single largest cause of ill health and disability. NI has higher levels of mental ill health than any other region in the UK and 1 in 5 adults here have a mental condition at any one time. It is estimated that around 45,000 of children and young people in NI have a mental health need at any one time and more than 20% of young people are suffering significant mental health problems by the time they reach 18. Mental health service reform in NI over the past decade has been guided by the Bamford Review. There have been two Action Plans (2009-11 and 2012-15), and recently there have been calls for a new ten-year mental health strategy for NI and a mental health champion to promote, lead and co-ordinate work across NI government departments. This summit addressed this topical issue.

#### Format and speakers

Hosted by Queen's University Belfast, the day-long summit then involved speakers grouped under three themes: the causes of youth mental health problems, prevention, and treatments and services. Questions were invited from the audience after the presentations on each theme, and the day finished with a panel discussion involving all the speakers, who gave their reflections on the day and were asked prepared questions as well as questions from the floor. Speakers were from the following organisations:

- Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People
- Queen's University Belfast
- Barnardo's NI
- What Works Wellbeing and Universities UK
- What Works Centre for Children's Social Care
- NICE

#### **Participants**

Approximately 100 people attended the event, from 30 organisations representing government departments, universities and colleges, voluntary and community sector, local government, health and social care trusts, service users and political parties.

This summit was filmed and the video can be found at <a href="http://bit.ly/wwsummitmentalhealth.">http://bit.ly/wwsummitmentalhealth.</a>

#### Local economic performance

**Date:** 10 June 2019

Location: Cardiff

#### Context

The theme for this summit was local economic performance. Some of the What Works Network and other research organisations are directly focused on areas of work relevant to the economic challenges facing Wales. The Wales Centre for Public Policy is responding to Welsh Government economic priorities, and the What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth is working with areas across the UK to improve the implementation of Local Industrial Strategies and the overall implementation of the UK Industrial Strategy. Away from the What Works Network, the RSA is at the forefront of research on inclusive growth, and the Productivity Insights Network is providing fresh insights on the productivity puzzle.

The aim of this summit was to present this ongoing work and consider its implications for Wales. As such, it aimed to bring What Works evidence to a new audience, feed into Welsh Government thinking on productivity, foundational economy and improving institutional capacity, and respond to key challenges facing stakeholders across the Welsh economy.

#### Format and speakers

Speakes from the following organisations gave presentations, followed by Q&As:

- What Works Local Economic Growth
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- Cardiff University and the Productivity Insights Network
- RSA

This was followed by a panel discussion on implications for Wales, featuring short reflections from the following and a Q&A with attendees:

- Wales Centre for Public Policy
- Cardiff Capital Region City Deal
- What Works Local Economic Growth

#### **Participants**

Approximately 25 delegates from Welsh Government, Welsh local authorities, universities, and third sector organisations.

#### What Works roundtable

Date: 4 October 2019

**Location**: London

#### Context

Given the valuable learning we gained from the first five summits, we decided it would be most useful to use the sixth summit to present our findings to What Works Centres and relevant key stakeholders, and use them as a springboard for discussions about What Works Centres' engagement with devolved nations and collaboration between Centres.

#### Format and speakers

This sixth summit was hosted by the Alliance for Useful Evidence and Chaired by Professor Jennifer Rubin and Professor Alison Park (ESRC). It took the form of a roundtable which covered the following:

- Views from the ESRC and the What Works National Advisor on collaboration and engagement with devolved nations
- Presentation by Wales Centre for Public Policy on findings from this project
- Facilitated discussions on collaboration and engagement with devolved nations.

#### **Participants**

25 representatives from What Works Centres, the ESRC, Cabinet Office, and devolved governments attended.

Vox pops were filmed at this summit and can be found at <a href="http://bit.ly/wwroundtablejrubin">http://bit.ly/wwroundtablejrubin</a>, <a href="http://bit.ly/wwroundtablejrubin">http://bit.ly/wwroundtablejrubin</a>, and <a href="http://bit.ly/wwroundtablejrub

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