

<b>Case Study</b>	
<b>Client:</b>	Department for Children, Schools and Families
<b>Project:</b>	Social Work Practice Pilots
<b>Client situation:</b>	<p>Improving outcomes for children in care, was the ambitious agenda set out by Government through the Care Matters White Paper. To help realise this agenda, the Department for Children, Schools and Families was tasked with developing a model for piloting Social Work Practices (SWP), a GP practice style resource purely for addressing the needs of Looked After Children.</p> <p>iMPOWER was engaged by the DCSF to assist with the development of the model by creating a tailored methodology and set of tools for successful planning and implementation.</p> <p>An SWP project team was formed, which would drive the project.</p> <p>A key component to the success of the project was ensuring a joint approach, which would be instrumental in getting buy-in from the local authorities which would ultimately pilot SWP, most of which were coming from a cynical base in terms of their perceptions of 'doing things differently'.</p> <p>The way in which we took the project forward with the client enabled all parties involved to constructively debate the benefits and potential disbenefits of Social Work Practices, which in turn empowered them to take decisions which were right for their particular authority and demographic make-up.</p> <p>Arriving at this position made authorities more confident about putting themselves forward for consideration as pilot sites.</p> <p>We provided a support and challenge role to the DCSF and the local authorities in considering the shape of their model. It was essential that each model adhered to the original guidance</p>
<b>Outcomes:</b>	<p>The initial idea was to set up a pilot testing a 'GP' style practice attached to a local authority to meet the day-to-day needs for looked after children in local authority residential care. Social workers would be able to establish independent, voluntary or private sector organisations to provide social work support for children in care under contract to the local authority.</p> <p>The project was challenging and interesting for a host of reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ This is an international first – no other country has ever “outsourced” their social work for children in care</li> <li>➔ The payment on outcomes model was fairly new, and we were able to develop the commissioning framework.</li> </ul>



	<p>The Government wants to test whether this SWPs delivers greater stability and continuity for children and is therefore supporting the development of six to nine pilots which will be subject to comprehensive and thorough evaluation before any decisions are made about longer term roll-out. The legislative basis for SWPs is set out in the Children and Young Persons Bill.</p>
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