



The Stamford Forum

The Stamford Forum Enquiry Process

The Stamford Forum aims to engage with issues and ideas through a unique process.

In order to become a mainstream Stamford Forum initiative an initial '[Stamford Forum Debate](#)' will take place. This will involve the Forum being persuaded that a particular issue would be suitable for our engagement by encompassing the following criteria:

- It is likely that through considering the issue it will be possible to break new ground – extending our collective understanding of the issue and others that it will impact on
- The issue is capable of being tackled through a variety of different approaches – it will be multi-faceted
- A whole system dimension can be articulated
- The issue will establish/develop/raise our profile
- The issue is regarded as being high on the national agenda
- It will generate at least a sufficient amount of funding to support the activity – although levels of funding may vary according to purpose
- It is considered likely that a worthwhile programme of activities could be put together that would reflect the concerns of a variety of different interests and stakeholders, e.g. those not easily reached and involved
- There is sufficient energy and capacity from within the membership to support the activity

Following a Forum Debate a number of further developments may arise.

One of these will be the evolution of a [Stamford Forum Enquiry](#).

This will commence with the development of a briefing paper which will be used to describe the nature of the issue and how the Stamford Forum proposes to take it forward.

An Enquiry would have the following features:

Purpose:

- ❖ The purpose of a Stamford Forum Enquiry is to generate wider understanding and to sponsor thinking, learning and informed practice about a particular issue.

Procedure:

- ❖ Following the production of a Briefing Paper two Enquiry Leads will be chosen by the Stamford Forum to lead on the issue
- ❖ A substantive Enquiry would normally be expected to continue for up to twelve months
- ❖ The Enquiry Leads will be responsible for seeking funding either from the Forum's own resources or from relevant stakeholders or funding bodies, for the different activities that take place during the twelve months that the Enquiry will be in place
- ❖ Enquiry Leads will be responsible for the programme of activities that takes place during the course of the twelve month Enquiry period
- ❖ Meetings of the Stamford Forum (4 times a year) will be available for reporting on the progress of Enquiry activities
- ❖ At the end of a twelve month period a formal Enquiry report/publication will be produced setting out the actions resulting from the Enquiry, the learning gained and the indicative sustainable development opportunities.

Following a Stamford Forum Enquiry reaching its completion, the Forum may decide to finish its work in this area or may wish to continue to have the issue kept on the agenda. Further work on the issue may then take place at the discretion of the Forum's Directors.