

26 May 2023

Dear colleagues,

Thank you to all of you who responded to our consultation on our arrangements for inspecting youth work. We have received a positive response and we are encouraged by your interest and engagement in this process. Thank you to all of you who took the time to provide feedback and share your ideas about future inspection approaches.

I thought it might be helpful to outline the next steps and timeline for this work. Currently we are in the process of analysing the responses and the key messages will be reflected in a brief consultation report. We aim to publish this report on our website by mid-June.

We will convene a stakeholder reference group to consider the messages and provide more detail as we develop our proposals, and we will send the invitations to the individuals who will be involved in this group after half-term. The stakeholder reference group will comprise of representatives from our key stakeholder groups, which we hope will serve as a valuable sounding board and help contribute to the development of our arrangements. We will ensure there are representatives from the voluntary sector included to consider in particular how inspection arrangements could work for youth work being carried out in voluntary youth work settings.

The reference group will convene at least every term to help us with this task. Once we've developed a draft guidance document we will share and consult with our wider stakeholders. Our aim is to pilot an inspection in the spring term 2024, evaluate the approach and then make any necessary adjustments to the guidance. During the summer term of 2024, we will train peer inspectors for the next cycle of inspections which will start in the autumn of 2024.

We're aware that there are different aspects to consider when inspecting local authority led and/or voluntary sector provision. One of our drivers is the need to provide assurances to Welsh Government and the public in general that the funding for youth services is having a positive impact on the lives of young people. There are several options we could take to enable us to do this, and it would be good to hear your views about these in due course.

During this next stage, we'll also work with the Youth Work Strategy Implementation Board and young people themselves to develop and test our approaches.

I hope the above provides you with sufficient information at this stage of the process and we look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that our work can support improvement in youth work wherever it is happening to ensure better outcomes for young people.

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Mae Estyn yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Bydd gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn y naill iaith neu'r llall yn cael yr un flaenoriaeth. | Estyn welcomes correspondence in both English and Welsh. Correspondence received in either language will be given equal priority.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'J Scott'.

Jassa Scott
Strategic Director