

30 June 2010

Learners firmly at the heart of the new Estyn inspection framework

Today, Estyn, the education and training inspectorate for Wales, launches its new inspection framework for schools, local authorities and the post-16 sector at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells.

Representatives from Estyn's stakeholder groups, headteachers, colleges, local authorities, the Welsh Assembly Government and educational organisations will attend the conferences on 30 June and 1 July to find out what the new framework means in practice.

Ann Keane, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales, said, *"We have worked hard over the last two years to develop a new inspection framework, in consultation with education providers, learners and community groups, which places the learner firmly at the heart of inspection and ensures that the onus is on providers to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses through better self-evaluation."*

Delegates will have the opportunity to hear more about the new framework and best practice in self-evaluation and self-assessment as well as hear from providers who took part in Estyn's pilot inspections about how the new framework works in practice. The Welsh Assembly Government will also be contributing inputs that make the links with the School Effectiveness Framework and the Quality Effectiveness Framework.

-ENDS-

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Notes to editors

Background to the new inspection framework

Estyn's new framework was developed after a two-stage national consultation. Education providers, learners and community groups were asked for their views of inspection via a series of focus groups. Their feedback was used to develop a set of proposals for the new inspection framework and underpinned a three-month formal, public consultation.

The consultation received an overwhelmingly positive response from all sectors and over the last year, Estyn has continued to work with providers and learners on developing the new inspection framework. Pilot inspections have been carried out in all sectors and these have also received praise.

The new framework sets out to recognise and support more joined-up working across the different sectors of Welsh public services and ensure that learners were always placed at the heart of inspection.

The main features of the new framework

- **A new pivotal role – the peer inspector.** Estyn has trained senior teachers and managers from schools, colleges and other providers to observe lessons, listen to learners and consult with staff and learners in a provider different to their own.
- **Estyn-led inspections in schools will be phased in over the next three years.** This will help ensure that providers are more confident about inspection findings.
- **Greater emphasis on self-evaluation.** Providers will need to know their own strengths and areas for improvement.
- **A shorter, more streamlined approach to inspection.** This will ensure that greater resource is available to support and provide guidance to weaker providers.
- **Four new judgements:** Excellent, Good, Adequate and Unsatisfactory
- **Four weeks' notice of inspection** for most providers
- **Three key questions and ten quality indicators.** These will focus on the quality of provision, learner outcomes and leadership and management.

About Estyn

Estyn is the Education and Training Inspectorate for Wales. Our aim is to achieve excellence for all in learning in Wales. We do this by providing an independent, high-quality inspection and advice service.

Our vision is to be recognised through the expertise of our staff as an authoritative voice on learning in Wales.

We are independent from, but funded by the Welsh Assembly Government (under Section 104 of the Government of Wales Act 1998).

For further information please visit our website www.estyn.gov.uk