



News release

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Potential Headteachers receive improved training

A training programme for potential headteachers has been improved but still needs to provide more opportunities to develop strategic thinking.

A report being launched today by Estyn looks at how well the training programme – the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) - prepares participants for becoming a headteacher.

The Welsh Assembly Government introduced the programme in 1997 and it has recently been revised in line with the National Standards for Headteachers in Wales. The changes have seen participants now focusing more on the skills and competences they need to succeed as headteachers.

Estyn reports that the overall quality of the training programme is good with few shortcomings. All NPQH trainers are well prepared and have expert knowledge and experience in leadership and management.

However Estyn recommends that participants are given more opportunities to think strategically and develop their own vision, within the context of Welsh policy and priorities.

Susan Lewis, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales says: "It is important that potential headteachers have a good understanding of national strategic priorities in order to develop their ability to consider the wider issues needed in the role of a headteacher".

There is currently no update training or provision for those who do not get a headship post within three years. In addition, participants are waiting too long to find out if they have been successful in their NPQH and acting headteachers may miss out on an opportunity to apply for posts during that time.

Estyn is recommending that the Assembly make sure that participants are informed promptly when they have achieved their NPQH and set up a programme of update training for those who do not get a headship post within three years.

Other recommendations include making sure that course materials are produced on time, as some materials have been late in the past, and that facilities are set up to enable participants to network during the programme.

Headteachers should provide NPQH participants with the opportunity to experience a full range of management responsibilities within their school especially financial and budget control.

Notes to Editors:

- Estyn, the office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales, provides a high quality inspection and advice service.
- Estyn inspects nursery schools and settings maintained or funded by local authorities, primary schools, secondary schools, special schools, pupil referral units, independent schools, further education, adult community-based learning, youth support services, youth justice system, local education authorities (LEAs), teacher education and training, work-based learning, Careers Wales companies and the education, guidance and training elements of the Jobcentre Plus programmes.
- Full copies of inspection reports are available on Estyn's web site at www.estyn.gov.uk

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