



Arolygiaeth Gofal
Cymru
Care Inspectorate
Wales



Estyn

Dros ddysgwyr, dros Gymru
For learners, for Wales

Follow Up

CIW/Estyn Joint Inspections

January 2025

Every possible care has been taken to ensure that the information in this document is accurate at the time of publication. Any enquiries or comments regarding this document/publication should be addressed to

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Guidance for non-school settings providing care and eligible for funding for part-time education, and for inspectors

This document provides guidance on follow-up for all joint Estyn and CIW inspections with Estyn and CIW which take place from January 2025.

The guidance describes the steps that inspection teams will take to help them to agree appropriate follow-up activity.

This guidance is flexible as it needs to be responsive to the wide variety of situations that occur in settings as they improve after joint core inspections. Estyn and CIW reserve the right to adapt the guidance to meet the needs of specific settings.

Guidance for inspectors on placing a setting into joint follow-up

During all joint inspections, the inspection team will consider whether the setting needs any follow-up activity.

There is **one** category of follow up:

Joint follow-up

A setting **normally** requires a joint follow-up visit if:

- inspectors find important weaknesses in leadership and management, which are a significant cause for concern and are having a significant detrimental impact on quality of provision for children usually leading to a 'poor' judgement for theme 6 AND
- inspectors have found non-compliance with regulations. This may or may not lead to a priority action notice.

Joint follow-up work will be carried out by CIW and Estyn. However, there may be occasions where it is agreed that inspectors from either Estyn or CIW are best placed to undertake a follow up visit alone. In these instances Estyn will follow up issues in relation to the provision of education and CIW will follow their securing improvement and enforcement policy.

If either Estyn or CIW identify any weakness which are of concern, then the setting will be placed in the joint follow-up category.

Placing a setting into joint follow-up

When considering placing a setting into joint follow-up the, inspectors should consider the following questions:

- has the CIW inspector found non-compliance and issued a priority action notice to the setting?

- is the setting failing to provide children with an acceptable standard of care and education?
- do the persons responsible for leading or managing the setting fail to demonstrate they have the capacity to secure the necessary improvement in the setting? **In this instance, the judgement for inspection theme 6, leadership and management, is likely to be poor.**
- the inspection team should consider the judgements for all themes before deciding on follow up. For example, where a priority action notice is issued but judgements for themes 1, 2 and 4 are good, it may be sufficient for CIW alone to undertake a follow up visit to deal with the non-compliance by following its Securing Improvement and Enforcement Policy.
- where there are concerns about the provision of education but the judgements for themes 1,3 and 5 are good, it may be sufficient for Estyn only to undertake a follow visit to deal with the shortcomings in education
- the inspection team must make their decision about follow up jointly and substantiate their findings / approach with evidence. The lead and deputy lead inspectors should contact their respective editors in the first instance if they feel that follow up may be required. The follow-up leads within both inspectorates will also advise before placing settings in joint follow up.
- If inspectors identify the setting as needing follow up, they must inform the setting during the feedback meeting. Inspectors should inform the setting that joint follow up is required and what the likely format this visit would take. For example, if the setting is being placed in follow up primarily for issues relating to non-compliance and where Priority Action Notices are being issued, inspectors would inform the setting that it is likely that it will only be CIW that will visit to consider progress. Where significant weaknesses are identified in the provision for education, it is likely that only Estyn will follow up on progress. If inspectors identify weaknesses across care and education, it will be likely that both Estyn and CIW will visit to measure progress.
- Inspectors should inform the setting that the format of the follow up visit will be confirmed following the quality assurance process.
- The decision is confidential to the setting until the report is published.