

Section 2

Sector summaries: Learning in the justice sector

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Context

In Wales, Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI) of Probation leads inspections of youth offending teams. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons leads on inspections of prisons, including the young offenders' institution, and the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) leads on inspections of secure children's homes. Estyn joins these teams to inspect the quality of education and training.

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Prisons

This year, Estyn worked with partners to inspect HMP Berwyn, HMP Cardiff and the young offenders' institution in HMP Parc. These reports can be found here:

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons

Provision for adults

In the adult prisons that Estyn inspected, most prisoners make effective progress towards their learning goals and most improve their literacy and numeracy skills. Many improve their awareness of how they can break cycles of offending behaviour.

In both prisons, many tutors plan sessions well, maintaining prisoners' focus for extended periods of time. Most engage and inspire prisoners to participate in activities. Trained peer mentors provide valuable, individualised support to learners. Both prisons assess prisoners' needs well, helping them to choose the opportunities that best suit their long term aims. In Cardiff, good outreach support to prisoners encourages prisoners to participate in education, training and employment.

Both prisons have effective partnerships that help prisoners to gain skills and improve their experience and employability. Both have sufficient places to engage nearly all prisoners in purposeful activity. However, since HMP Berwyn opened in 2017, the range of education, training and work has not met the needs of the population.

Leaders in both prisons make effective use of labour market information and employer partnerships to inform the planning of provision that improved prisoners' opportunities for employment. For example, barista training in Cardiff and an on-site distribution warehouse in Berwyn has enabled a few prisoners to gain real work experience.

Provision for young people

Estyn worked with its partners to inspect the education and training provision for young people in HMP Parc.

Nearly all learners attain appropriately. Many respond well to being set challenging activities that extend their learning and skills. Most learners make very strong progress in their learning from their starting points.

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The broad range of activities enables all learners to select options that match their interests and needs. The very well-equipped workshops enable all learners on vocational courses to gain a realistic understanding of the world of work. However, learners have poor access to online learning resources. Teaching is tailored effectively to learners' individual needs. The prison gives helpful support to learners who refuse to attend education sessions or who have been withdrawn from classes, encouraging them to re-engage.

The prison's senior management team demonstrate a strong commitment to education. A strengthened management structure has further improved strategic oversight and operational management of learners' education.

Probation services

HMI Probation undertook one inspection in Wales last year. It inspected the Western Bay Youth Offending Service (YOS), which worked across the local authority areas of Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend. The inspection team included representatives from Estyn, Health Inspectorate Wales, Care Inspectorate Wales and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services. Estyn focused on the education and training that young people who were engaged with this service received. This report can be found at [HM Inspectorate of Probation \(2019\)](#). Overall, Western Bay YOS was rated as inadequate.

Information-sharing protocols are not effective in ensuring that all schools give YOS staff the information they need to provide support tailored to children's and young people's individual needs. Few schools provide helpful information about young people's literacy and numeracy levels. Too many young people of school age do not receive their full entitlement to education.

The service does not have an effective strategy to ensure that young people who most need it receive appropriate support for literacy and numeracy skills to enable them to make progress into or within education, training or employment and to reduce reoffending.

The service does not have an effective strategy to ensure that those young people who can speak Welsh receive a service in Welsh, can develop their language, or that they are encouraged to develop an awareness of the value of the language as an employment skill. There are not enough bilingual resources for workers to use to encourage young people's use of Welsh.

The findings echo several of the main findings from Estyn's report on [The quality of education and training for young people engaged with youth offending teams](#) (2018h).