

Guidance for Inspectors

Follow-up

Joint CIW/Estyn inspections

Non-maintained settings

September 2021



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Follow up: Joint CIW/Estyn inspections

Guidance for non-school settings providing care and eligible for funding for part-time education, and for inspectors. September 2021.

This document provides guidance on follow-up for all joint inspections with Estyn and CIW which take place from September 2021.

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 follow-up

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

There are two categories of follow up inspectors may consider:

Joint focused improvement follow-up

A setting **normally** requires joint focused improvement follow-up if:

- Inspectors identify important weaknesses in leadership and management, usually leading to a 'poor' judgement for theme 6 AND
- Inspectors have identified 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 inspectors.

Estyn review – Estyn only follow-up

- Inspectors identify important weaknesses in the outcomes or provision for children who are funded for early education.

Estyn only follow-up work will be carried out by Estyn inspectors only.

Note: There will be no change to the judgements from core joint inspections as a result of follow up inspection activity. This includes inspection visits by CIW inspectors to test compliance where a notice has been issued.

Placing a setting into joint focused improvement follow-up

When considering placing a setting into joint focused improvement, inspectors should consider the following questions:

- has the CIW inspector identified serious 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 that 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 what the judgements are for all the themes before deciding on focused improvement. 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 to deal with the non-compliance by following its Securing Improvement and Enforcement Policy.

The inspection team must make their decision about follow up jointly and substantiate their judgements on the basis of sound evidence.

Inspectors should emphasise during the feedback meeting that all judgements, including the decision to place the setting in the focused improvement category of follow up, are provisional and subject to moderation by both inspectorates. The decision is confidential to the setting until the report is published. The same quality assurance processes apply to follow-up work as to joint inspections.

Placing a setting in Estyn review – Estyn only follow-up

Once inspectors have decided that the setting does not require focused improvement, the Estyn inspector should consider the following questions:

- Are important improvements required in wellbeing, learning, and/or teaching and assessment for funded children?
- Do leaders and managers demonstrate the capacity to bring about improvements in wellbeing, standards and provision for funded children?

The inspector should consider the judgements for themes 1, 2, 4 and 6.

If leaders and managers fail to demonstrate the capacity to bring about the required improvements, inspectors should consider placing the setting in Estyn review.

The inspector must be able to substantiate the judgements on the basis of sound evidence.

Inspectors should emphasise during the feedback meeting that all judgements, including the decision to place the setting in the Estyn review category of follow up, are provisional and subject to moderation by both inspectorates. The decision is confidential to the setting until the report is published.