

A quality framework for early learning and childcare, school-aged childcare and childminding services

The Scottish Social Services Council is the regulator for the social work, social care and children and young people workforce in Scotland. Our work means the people of Scotland can count on social services being provided by a trusted, skilled, confident and valued workforce.

We protect the public by registering this workforce, setting standards for their practice, conduct, training and education and by supporting their professional development. Where people fall below the standards of practice and conduct we can investigate and take action.

We:

- publish the national codes of practice for people working in social work, social care and children and young people services and their employers
- register this workforce and make sure they adhere to our codes of practice
- promote and regulate their learning and development
- lead workforce development and planning for this workforce in Scotland and provide national statistics.

1. What best describes your role?

Professional regulator

2. We are aware that the survey may be completed by individuals or members of a group. If you are responding on behalf of a local authority, organisation, or network, please inform us who you are representing in the box below (optional)

The Scottish Social Services Council

3. If applicable, what is your current role?

Policy Analyst

4. If applicable, which local authority is your service based in?

N/A

5. Between the two existing frameworks there were 28 indicators. There are 16 indicators within the draft shared framework document, do you consider this to be suitable?

Yes

6. Is it clear which quality indicators in the framework apply to those services delivering funded early learning and childcare?

Yes

7. Will the content of the shared framework support self-evaluation and action planning for improvement?

Yes

8. Will the illustrations in the shared framework support the delivery of high quality care, play and learning experiences for children?

Yes

9. Is the language within the shared framework easy to understand?

Yes

10. Do you think the images of the Health and Social Care Standards are helpful?

Yes

11. If applicable, are there any areas of your work that are not covered by the framework that should be?

We welcome the recognition of the importance that staff skills, knowledge and values play in the delivery of early learning and childcare, school-aged childcare and child-minding services. We particularly welcome the inclusion of reference to qualifications and continuous professional learning in quality indicators 3.1 and 3.2. We also believe that the inclusion of references to the need for mentoring and support in the induction section is a welcome addition.

12. Our aim is to include sector specific content within the framework. It would be helpful if you can identify specific areas where additional guidance would support you. Please include the number of the quality indicator.

We believe that the language used in quality indicator 4.3 should be revised. This quality indicator is not labelled as being specific to the funded ELC part of the sector, but the language used is particular to that part of the sector and excludes play-based settings not delivering education.

A revised quality indicator 4.3 should highlight how central pedagogical leadership, professional learning and making sure that children have a leading role in their learning and play are to all settings.

We believe that splitting this quality indicator into two sections would better highlight the different emphases in funded and non-funded settings. If it is not desirable to split this section, we would recommend adjusting the language to make it applicable to all settings.

13. Do you have any other comments about the shared framework document.

We believe the definitions on page 3 are very useful and would like to this in future documents.

We believe there is an issue with the way early learning and childcare (ELC), childminding services and school-age childcare services are defined. The definition provided in the framework states that "early learning and childcare" or ELC in this framework is defined as the funded entitlement of 1140 hours for all 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds.' However, throughout the framework document reference is routinely made to 'funded ELC' with the term ELC being used interchangeably with the definition provided and to refer to the sector as a whole, for example on page 6. We believe this should be clarified to avoid potential confusion.

We would like to see reference being made to play in relation to the definition of school-age childcare as many practitioners are also qualified playworkers and we believe this is a key strength of the sector.

We would like to see consistency throughout the document in how school-age childcare is described. The terms school-age childcare and school-aged childcare are used interchangeably throughout the document and we believe that a consistent use of one term would be beneficial. We also believe that the phrase 'care play and learning' should be replaced by 'care, play and learning.'

We believe that the illustrations that have been included for the Health and Social care standards and National standards will be very useful.

The Scottish Social Services Council

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