

Playwork Education and Training Council (PETC) Wales

Annual report 2024-2025

Introduction

The Playwork Education and Training Council for Wales (PETC Wales) provides strategic leadership and expert guidance in playwork education and training. This report highlights PETC Wales' key activities, achievements, challenges and discussions from June 2024 to March 2025.

Key achievements

National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Playwork Review

PETC Wales has played a central role in the UK-wide NOS review through the UK Playwork NOS Consortium. A functional analysis was completed and draft standards are expected to be released for consultation in autumn 2025. Engagement has included sector-wide input, workshops and the establishment of a four-nation NOS writing group and advisory group.

This work ensures the NOS reflect what playworkers actually do in practice today. The updated standards will help shape training, qualifications and expectations across the sector, making them more meaningful and relevant to everyday roles.

Training and Support Programme

The Welsh Government extended the programme to March 2026, with delivery continuing through Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs and Aspiration Training. The Transition to Playwork Award saw high engagement, with 376 learners completing it. A new Training Needs Analysis was developed, with flexibility encouraged for learner pathways, including Playwork: Principles into Practice (P³) and the Level 2 Award in Playwork Practice (L2APP).

Continued funding has allowed more playworkers to access free, flexible training that fits their needs and working patterns. The high uptake shows a growing interest in professional development and has supported entry and progression within the sector.

Operational governance

PETC Wales' Terms of Reference were reviewed and updated to reflect current working practice, hybrid meeting and revised membership categories. A new Occupational Competency Statement was drafted to guide tutors and assessors. A 30-hour CPD recommendation was included.

The Occupational Competency Statement and CPD guidance support tutors and playworkers to maintain the currency of the skills and keep their knowledge up to date.

Designation support framework

A criteria document for evaluating requests for letters of support from awarding bodies was developed and agreed, aligning with the requirements of Qualification Wales. PETC Wales now holds a formal role in providing letters of support for qualification designation.

By formally assessing qualifications for endorsement, PETC Wales helps protect the quality of playwork training. This ensures that courses offered to playworkers meet sector expectations and have real value for employers and practitioners.

Collaboration and communication

PETC Wales helped produce and share video clips promoting open access play and playwork – commissioned by Play Wales – supporting broader awareness and professional identity. Continued coordination with national stakeholders, including Social Care Wales, Care Inspectorate Wales and the Welsh Government.

PETC Wales' outreach activities promote a stronger understanding of playwork across related sectors and the public. The video resources help raise the profile of playwork and support a sense of professional identity among practitioners.

Key discussion points

Future of professional registration

PETC Wales continues to monitor the status of professional registration, which remains paused pending ministerial review.

Funding and apprenticeships

Funding beyond March 2026 remains uncertain. Concerns were raised about learner recruitment and retention, especially for P³ and L2APP. There was consensus on the need for clearer, longer-term funding commitments to ensure stability and planning capacity.

Qualification landscape

City & Guilds ceased delivery of playwork qualifications. Focus Awards qualifications were approved by Qualifications Wales without PETC Wales consultation, prompting PETC Wales to advocate for involvement in future designation processes.

National Minimum Standards (NMS) and Exceptions Order

PETC Wales engaged in consultations related to the Ministerial Review of Play, including discussion on open access settings and safeguarding under the Exceptions Order. PETC Wales supports the creation of a compulsory approval scheme for unregulated provision.

Workforce development

Concerns were raised about barriers to face-to-face training (for example, timing and backfilling school staff). PETC Wales discussed blending the L2APP Award and Certificate and increasing flexibility for learners.

Council member highlights

- **Clwb Carco:** expanded workforce, inclusive club funding bid, strong Eisteddfod presence.
- **Wrexham County Borough Council:** delivery of L2APP, support for Play Friendly Schools, planning for Playworkers Forum.
- **Vale of Glamorgan:** pilot of Play Friendly Schools programme, addressing staffing backfill challenges.
- **Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales:** interest in Level 1 provision in north Wales.
- **The Playwork Foundation:** hosted AGM, Playwork in Progress sessions and initiated development of online training.

Looking ahead

- Finalise and consult on the draft NOS.
- Contribute to the review of playwork qualifications and apprenticeships.
- Support the Welsh Government with NMS and Exceptions Order consultations.
- Strengthen guidance and communications for qualification providers and the playwork workforce.
- Monitor and respond to funding and registration developments.

Meeting dates for 2025

- 24 June 2025
- 23 September 2025
- 2 December 2025

This annual report has been generated with the assistance of AI.

Prepared by Play Wales on behalf of PETC Wales.

