

UK Playwork NOS Consortium Expert Reference Group Person Specification (voluntary role)

Purpose

The UK Playwork NOS Consortium is a partnership of the national play and playwork organisations: Play Wales, Play England, PlayBoard Northern Ireland, Play Scotland and the Playwork Foundation. The consortium has been approved by the UK Standards and Frameworks Panel to undertake a self-funded review of the National Occupational Standards for Playwork on behalf of the UK playwork sector.

The NOS writing group will be supported by various Expert Reference Groups (ERGs). The purpose of the ERGs will be to act as a critical friend to the NOS Writing Group and UK Playwork NOS Consortium. We are recruiting for voluntary members of the ERGs with specific knowledge of Higher Education, Qualifications and Awarding Bodies, Further Education delivery, open access playwork and out of school childcare.

The NOS writing group will be a group of committed sector experts who will take forward the work of writing new NOS for playwork during 2024/25. Due to the intensive nature of the work and the requirement for consistent attendance and focus we are looking to recruit a maximum of eight members. A separate person specification for writing group members is also available.

How to apply

If you are interested in being part of the reference group, please email us explaining how you meet the desirable attributes, skills and knowledge in the person specification below, along with an accompanying CV.

Please email to: nosreview@play.wales



Role of Expert Reference Groups

The Expert Reference Groups will meet two or three times during the NOS development process and will help to shape the draft NOS standards before they are shared for wider consultation. The role of the ERGs will be to ensure the resulting standards reflect the broad and diverse requirements of the playwork sector across the UK.

It is anticipated that the ERGs will meet:

1. near the start of the development process
2. to provide feedback on the functional map which provides a broad overview of what the standards will cover
3. to provide feedback on the final standards before wider consultation.

Whilst experience of developing NOS and/or qualifications is important, we are also keen to build knowledge and capacity in the sector for future NOS reviews. For this reason, we welcome applications from potential ERG members who have not been involved directly in this work before.

We are still developing the ERGs but intend to have groups covering the following sub-sectors:

- play and playwork in Higher Education
- further education qualification providers and awarding bodies
- open access playwork
- out of school childcare
- playwork in other contexts – including youth work, health, hospitals, prisons, education and schools.

Person specification:

ERG members also must be able to demonstrate experience, knowledge, understanding and skills to address each of the following:

- Knowledge of the playwork sector
- Detailed knowledge of the sub-sector of their specific ERG
- Knowledge and understanding of the NOS development process and how NOS and qualifications are linked
- Detailed knowledge of the national context and priorities for NOS/qualifications in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland or Wales
- Diversity in respect of protected characteristics
- Excellent communication skills and diplomacy
- Working remotely using online meeting software.

The closing date for submitting an application is 31 July 2024.

