

Review of the National Occupational Standards for Playwork 2024/25

Information sheet #2

As Chair of the UK Playwork National Occupational Standards Consortium, I am pleased to provide this update on the review of the playwork National Occupational Standards (NOS).

The national organisations have been meeting for some time and are combining their resources to make sure that this review is possible, on behalf of the sector, to ensure fit for purpose standards reflecting the valuable work of the sector.

This information sheet provides an update on the progress over the summer of 2024 to ensure the playwork sector is kept well informed, consulted, and engaged throughout the process.

Jane Hawkshaw

What has happened over the summer?

The UK Playwork NOS Consortium has undertaken a recruitment exercise to identify individuals with playwork and sector expertise to be involved in the review. Two groups have been established:

1. the Playwork NOS Writing Group
2. the Playwork NOS Advisory Group.

These groups will meet throughout the process to take forward the work of reviewing and developing National Occupational Standards for playwork during 2024/2025.

What will happen next?

The next step is to develop a Functional Map. This map will provide an overview of the proposed NOS so that stakeholders understand the broad direction of the suite of NOS that will be developed for playwork. It will be used to generate the detail of the NOS, which will then be consulted upon with the playwork sector and other key stakeholders later in 2025.

What will the Playwork NOS Writing Group do?

The NOS Writing Group is made up of committed sector experts who will take forward the work of writing the new NOS for playwork during 2024/25. The NOS Writing Group will report back to the UK Playwork NOS Consortium on its key functions, which are:

1. To review current playwork NOS
2. To develop a Functional Map for playwork NOS during 2024/25
3. To develop a suite of NOS for playwork during 2024/25
4. To consult with the Playwork NOS Advisory Group, the playwork sector and other key stakeholders in the sector on the draft Functional Map and resulting NOS
5. To ensure the new playwork NOS meet requirements set by the UK Standards and Framework Panel, UK Playwork NOS Consortium and the Playwork NOS Scoping Review (2023).

Membership of the NOS Writing Group includes representatives from each of the four nations. This group was recruited for their knowledge and expertise

in relation to playwork, training, qualifications and standards development. This group will meet regularly to complete the writing and review of the NOS.

Membership of the writing group as at November 2024:

Name	Location
Caroline Kerr	Northern Ireland
Martin King-Sheard	Wales
Dianne Larrington	England
Kay Maxwell	Scotland
Karen Sharp (Chair)	Scotland
Sarah Turton	Wales
Meynell Walter	England
Mike Wragg	England

What will the Playwork NOS Advisory Group do?

The purpose of the Playwork NOS Advisory Group will be to act as a critical friend to the NOS Writing Group and UK Playwork NOS Consortium. In [information sheet #1](#), and during the recruitment process, the two groups were referred to as ‘Expert Reference Groups’. The term ‘Advisory Group’ has been chosen to be more reflective of the skills and knowledge required to be on this group.

We are still recruiting for voluntary members of the Playwork NOS Advisory Group with specific knowledge of Higher Education, qualifications and Awarding Bodies, Further Education delivery, open access playwork and out of school childcare. The Playwork NOS Advisory Group may be split into smaller sector specialisms if required.

This group (or series of groups) will meet at key points in the development process to review the work on the Functional Map and resulting NOS. This is part of the consultation and engagement process.

If you are interested in joining the Playwork NOS Advisory Group, please email your CV along with a covering letter to: nosreview@play.wales



How else will you consult on the NOS?

In addition to engagement through the UK Playwork NOS Consortium, each nation’s Playwork Education and Training Council (PETC) will have an opportunity to comment on the Functional Map and draft NOS.

The final NOS will be consulted on as part of a wider public consultation in Summer 2025. This will include regional events across the UK. Consultation events will be held online but may include some face to face engagement.

For more information on the purpose of NOS, approval process and the UK Playwork NOS Consortium read [information sheet #1](#) or email: nosreview@play.wales

