

# Review of the National Occupational Standards for Playwork 2025/2026

## Information sheet #4

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

The national organisations have been overseeing the process of the NOS review, and we are now pleased to formally launch the consultation with the sector on the draft NOS for playwork.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank members of the UK Playwork NOS Consortium, Playwork NOS Writing Group and Playwork NOS Advisory Group who have given their time and expertise to help shape the NOS drafts.

This information sheet provides an update on the review process so far and how to get involved in the consultation.

Jane Hawkshaw

### Overview

The UK Playwork NOS Consortium has made significant progress in its self-funded review of the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for playwork. This collaborative effort spans all four nations – Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and England – and is supported by sector experts, Playwork Education and Training Councils (PETC England, PETC Northern Ireland, Playwork Scotland and PETC Wales), and stakeholders across the UK.

This information sheet should be read in conjunction with previous information sheets: [www.play.wales/playwork/workforce](http://www.play.wales/playwork/workforce)

### Progress to date

#### 1. Development of the Functional Map

A Functional Map has been drafted and continually updated to outline the key purpose, main functions and next-level functions of playwork. This is part of the NOS development process as outlined by the NOS Standards and Frameworks Panel. The draft functional map provides an overview of all the standards and the job roles they cover.

#### 2. Drafting of the standards

The writing group has drafted standards for the roles of:

- Support playworker
- Playworker
- Playwork Manager.

The focus is on the application of a playwork approach in a range of different settings and the standards are intended to reflect the broad generic functions in playwork. There are a series of core standards for each job role plus additional optional units, on which we are asking for your feedback.

#### 3. Development of a Glossary

Alongside the development of the NOS themselves we have developed a draft Glossary. We are also seeking feedback on the Glossary and the terminology within it. Sometimes, the Writing Group has discussed and settled on a single term because it is simpler to use one or two words in the NOS. On other occasions, there are variations in terminology used across the four nations. The Glossary, therefore, is designed to provide clarity on the language and highlight and acknowledge where other terminology is also in use.

## How to get involved in the NOS Consultation

The NOS Consultation is open between Monday 9 March and Friday 1 May 2026.

You can download the draft NOS, Functional Map and Glossary form here:

[www.play.wales/news\\_category/playwork-nos-consultation](http://www.play.wales/news_category/playwork-nos-consultation)

The online survey can be completed here:

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/playworkNOSreview](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/playworkNOSreview)

The NOS Consortium is also running a series of webinars across the four nations where you can find out more about the process, discuss the functional map and provide initial feedback. We have provided a number of times and dates. If you can't attend your home nation event, you are welcome to book onto an alternative date that suits you.

Please pre-register by clicking on the purple links:

### Scotland

**Wednesday 18 March 10:00am - 12:00pm**

[Playwork National Occupational Standards Webinar \(Scotland\) | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

### Wales

**Wednesday 18 March 1:00pm - 3:00pm**

[Playwork National Occupational Standards Webinar \(Wales\) | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

### England

**Tuesday 24 March 6:30pm - 8:30pm**

[Playwork National Occupational Standards Webinar \(England\) | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

### Northern Ireland

**Friday 27 March 10:00am - 12:00pm**

[Playwork National Occupational Standards Webinar \(Northern Ireland\) | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)



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### Next steps

After the consultation closes, the UK Playwork NOS Consortium and NOS Writing Group will take account of all feedback and finalise the NOS. This will include drafting a consultation report that will be made available. The final NOS will be published in June 2026 in English and Welsh.

Following the publication of the NOS, the Awarding Bodies/Awarding Organisations will begin the process of re-mapping or re-developing their playwork qualifications.

For more information on the purpose of NOS, approval process and the UK Playwork NOS Consortium read [information sheet #1](#), [information sheet #2](#), [information sheet #3](#) or email: [nosreview@play.wales](mailto:nosreview@play.wales)

