

# Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Education Directorate Briefing

Estyn Local Government Education Services  
(LGES)

A briefing on the new Inspection  
arrangements for the inspection of education  
Services

**Lynette Jones**  
**Corporate Director for Education**  
**November 26<sup>th</sup> 2018**

## So what will the new FRAMEWORK look like?

- ▶ The new LGES consists of the following inspection areas:
- ▶ **The Local Government Education Services Inspection Framework**
- ▶
- ▶ **Inspection area 1 – Outcomes**
  - ▶ 1.1 Standards and progress overall
  - ▶ 1.2 Standards and progress of specific groups
  - ▶ 1.3 Wellbeing and attitudes to learning
- ▶ **Inspection area 2 – Education Services**
  - ▶ 2.1 Support for school improvement
  - ▶ 2.2 Support for vulnerable learners
  - ▶ 2.3 Other education support services
- ▶ **Inspection area 3 – Leadership and management**
  - ▶ 3.1 Quality and effectiveness of leaders and managers
  - ▶ 3.2 Self-evaluation and improvement planning
  - ▶ 3.3 Professional learning
  - ▶ 3.4 Safeguarding arrangements
  - ▶ 3.5 Use of resources

## What will the process look like?

- ▶ Estyn will take a view/evaluate the accuracy of the LA's OWN evaluation of their own performance
- ▶ They will choose specific areas to inspect
- ▶ Estyn will devise a set of specific LA inspection questions (LA IQs) which will be shared with the LA
- ▶ LALI will help draft them: there will be between 4 and 8 LA IQs

## What next?

- ▶ Estyn will sample evidence to test the LA's OWN self-evaluation
- ▶ The LA Inspection Questions (LA IQs) will cover specific areas of IA 2 and be shared with the LA approximately 7/8 weeks before the Core Inspection starts
- ▶ The progress pupils make from their starting points , the standards they attain, are key measures of the quality of education pupils receive and the effectiveness of leaders and managers

## Who will take part?

- ▶ 2 Peer inspectors
- ▶ 1 LALI
- ▶ WAO
- ▶ There will be 10 weeks notice
- ▶ There will be 1 LA inspection from each region every year over the next 4 years = 4 per year
- ▶ Usual domestic arrangements will take place

## What will ESTYN require?

- ▶ Corporate Improvement Plan
- ▶ LA views on outcomes, quality of provision and quality of leadership
- ▶ Reports from Council, Executive, Scrutiny, CLT
- ▶ Partnership reports LSB
- ▶ Education Business Plans: Directorate Improvement Plan, Service and team plans

## What other information will Estyn consider?

- ▶ Estyn will open a Citizen Survey 3 weeks before the Core Inspection and they will ask the Council to publicise this as well
- ▶ The survey will ask common LGES questions plus specific LA inspection questions as well
- ▶ LA IQs will be finalised 7/8 weeks before the core inspections – shared with LA, timetable planned and Lead Inspector allocated to each LA IQ

## What happens next?

- ▶ 2 weeks before the core inspection the reporting inspector will visit the LA and meet senior officers/leaders to discuss the LA IQs and interview: HTs, COGs, CYP, parents/Carers, reps from other statutory sectors
- ▶ At the start of the core inspection Estyn will meet with all LA/Council senior leaders - the Leader, the MD, Director, Executive member, Chair of Scrutiny

## How does the inspection start?

- ▶ The allocated LA nominee will deliver a 30 min presentation to the whole HMI team, setting out the local context, main strengths and areas for improvement
- ▶ 3 senior officers will be invited to share their views on the LA IQs , provide context and direct the lead inspector to the most useful evidence

## What happens then?

- ▶ The inspection will start by Estyn considering the LA's OWN self-evaluation alongside their plans for improvement, plus relevant supporting evidence
- ▶ Estyn will sample, test and validate the evaluations offered to form their OWN judgements
- ▶ Main aim is to answer the LA IQs

## What else will Estyn do?

- ▶ Estyn will allow enough time to focus on the supporting evidence
- ▶ Estyn will spend time looking at the LA's OWN self-evaluation processes, and any interim progress reports and gauge how these are used in a practical way to inform business plans and work on the ground
- ▶ The inspection takes place, team meetings takes place and judgements will be agreed

## What about judgments?

- ▶ There will be no summative judgements for each inspection area
- ▶ A judgement will be made if the LA/Council is a cause for significant concern

## What meetings will take place?

- ▶ At the end of every day and start of every morning a team meeting will take place – the nominee will be present at these meetings
- ▶ At the end of every day the Lead Inspector will meet with the CX/MD or other senior leader to discuss emerging findings, or need for further supporting evidence -all of which can change

## What happens at the end of the inspection

- ▶ Feedback will take place with senior leaders and officers – confidentiality will remain a key priority
- ▶ The overall judgement will be given if the Council presents as a cause for significant concern:

## Reasons why a Council is judged as a cause for serious concern:

- ▶ A high proportion of learners underachieve over time or there is a considerable decline over time
- ▶ There is a high proportion of schools in statutory categories of follow up
- ▶ There is a failure to address shortcomings from the previous inspection
- ▶ There are important weaknesses in senior leadership
- ▶ Any other concern that presents a significant RISK to the wellbeing or achievement of children and young people

## Reporting as they find....

- ▶ Estyn must report as they find and be able to substantiate judgements with sound evidence
- ▶ The main emphasis is on outcomes for children and all learners
- ▶ Evidence will be needed for, and Estyn will give attention to, the extent to which leaders KNOW AND UNDERSTAND the strengths and weaknesses of education services and also the extent to which weaknesses are tackled i.e. **are they attending to the right things**



## What will Estyn consider?

- ▶ Estyn will consider how well informed members are and how well scrutiny fulfils their duties
- ▶ Estyn will judge outcomes and NOT speculative or good intentions
- ▶ HMCI will scrutinise the work and judgements of the team. All evidence MUST be available.

## What if the Council is a cause for significant concern?

- ▶ HMCI will inform Welsh Government, Welsh Ministers
- ▶ If the Council is a cause for significant concern the reporting inspector must make clear that the LA is NOT:
  - Ensuring the provision of an acceptable standard of education, and
  - Senior leaders lack the capacity to secure the necessary improvements

They must make clear the main shortcomings which led to the judgement

## What about the report?

- ▶ The report will be produced within 45 days of the end of the core inspection
  
- ▶ The format will be:
  - About the Council
  - Summary
  - Recommendations
  - What happens next
  - Main findings: outcomes, education services, leadership and management

## Where will the report be sent?

- ▶ To the Council
- ▶ Welsh Ministers
- ▶ Welsh Government
- ▶ WAO
  
- ▶ The Directorate's Plans will be updated to reflect the recommendations
  
- ▶ LALI will discuss plans with senior leaders and Chair of Scrutiny

## The report will 'report' on....

- ▶ Inspection area 1 and 3: Outcomes and leadership
- ▶ It will report on the Inspection Questions derived from Inspection Area 2 – not all will be inspected or reported on
- ▶ There will be a dedicated area in the report for the narrative on the LA Inspection Questions
- ▶ The recommendations will be reported in priority order

## What does the guidance say ?

- ▶ Handout: key areas of the guidance
- ▶ Discussion points relevant to specific stakeholders
- ▶ Implications for Blaenau Gwent Council

**Blaenau Gwent County Borough  
Council  
Education Directorate Briefing**

Estyn Local Government Education Services  
(LGES)

A briefing on the new Inspection  
arrangements for the inspection of education  
Services

**Lynette Jones**  
**Corporate Director for Education**  
**October 17<sup>th</sup> 2018**