

Briefing note on how Estyn, CSSIW, HIW & WAO are developing their business processes to help achieve the key aims of the Welsh Assembly Government's Policy Statement on Inspection, Audit & Regulation

Estyn, the Care & Social Services Inspectorate, Healthcare Inspectorate Wales and the Wales Audit Office welcome the principles set out in the Assembly Government's Policy Statement on Inspection, Audit and Regulation.

A significant amount of joint and collaborative working already exists amongst external review bodies in Wales and we have been working together in recent months to explore how to take this further. The Policy Statement will provide a helpful focal point for work which is already underway to strengthen existing mechanisms for planning and delivering external review work in a co-ordinated and proportionate manner

The heads of Estyn, CSSIW, HIW and the WAO are fully committed to securing continuing improvement in collaborative working arrangements both operationally in the delivery of local inspection and review work, and more strategically in identifying and planning their overarching work programmes to support the improvements necessary in public services in Wales.

Senior staff in each of our organisations will be working together to develop the necessary activities and processes to achieve this aim. This is part of a commitment to ensure that there are clear accountabilities and responsibilities for joint and collaborative working within each of our organisations.

Over the next 12 months a number of key activities and outputs will be taken forward:

- A new working protocol, which is aligned with the principles set out in the Policy Statement, will be developed and operated by WAO, CSSIW, HIW and ESTYN.
- A new framework will be put in place to support a co-ordinated and strategic approach to the planning and delivery of audit, inspection and review at local and national level.

- The activities set out in the framework will be build into the business processes of each of our organisations, including those that are being developed to respond to the new Local Government Measure and re-organisation in the NHS;
- Where necessary, the framework will be underpinned by new or refreshed memoranda of understanding and information sharing protocols;
- We will provide staff working in our organisations with opportunities to work together more effectively through the development of initiatives such as joint staff development programmes and information sharing events; and
- We will make use of a variety of mechanisms to publish intregated information on our collective work programme commitments.

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