



Invitation to tender – Playwork National Occupational Standards (NOS) Scoping Project 2022

Aim

To identify key organisations and stakeholders in a future review of the Playwork NOS. To identify any nation specific drivers and blockers and make recommendations on the direction of a future NOS review.

Context

There is a need to plan strategically across the four nations for the future of playwork workforce development and sector skills initiatives. In particular, to be in a position to ensure that a future review of the NOS is undertaken by a consortium of organisations who can demonstrate sector expertise and buy in.

Play Wales, Play England, Play Scotland, PlayBoard Northern Ireland and the Playwork Foundation have established a consortium to bid for, or identify funding for, a future review of the Playwork NOS. The Consortium would now like to undertake a scoping exercise to ensure that the respective needs of the four nations are reflected in future plans. The intention is to undertake preparatory work during 2022 to meet the requirements of the UK Standards and Frameworks programme and for the UK Playwork NOS Consortium to be added to the NOS Supplier Framework.

From the advice we have received, we know that the Consortium can demonstrate all of the skills and sector support needed to lead on a NOS review, with the exception of specific and current expertise in structuring and writing NOS. The Consortium may need to identify this skill from a third party – scoping who may be able to offer this is included in the brief below.

The last review of the Playwork NOS was undertaken in 2016.

Extent of the scoping exercise

- Mapping of the key organisations and stakeholders in the NOS across the four nations.
- Scoping support/commitment for a future playwork NOS review from key organisations.
- Identifying barriers to the consortium in taking forward the NOS review and provide some recommendations on how to navigate them.

- Summarising how the four nations make use of the playwork NOS both currently and over the life cycle of the next NOS – especially in relation to how they link to qualifications development and delivery.
- Identifying potential individuals or organisations with NOS writing expertise to be commissioned to work with the Consortium.

Methodology

We would expect the successful applicant to take a lead on gathering the information outlined above. This should include interviews with identified leads from the members of the UK Playwork NOS Consortium which may then give rise to other methods, including:

- Targeted online surveys
- Focus groups
- Semi-structured interviews.

Task 1

To ensure involvement of key organisations and stakeholders interested/involved with playwork, the consultant makes contact with four nations organisations – Play Wales, PlayBoard NI, Play Scotland and Play England – to arrange a time to call when person has time to prepare and have the relevant details to hand.

Task 2

Draft the questions which will:

- Identify the different organisations/personnel within each country with the relevant expertise who could best contribute to and support the future development of the Playwork NOS
- Identify the different uses NOS may have in different countries, e.g. Scotland where one NOS correlates to one unit in vocational qualifications. Other uses include recruitment, and professional management.
- Identify the different barriers which might occur in taking the development of the NOS forward in different countries and ask for suggestions of ways to overcome these.

Task 3

Contact the four nations to gather names and contact details for suggestions of key organisations and individuals with relevant expertise in each country.

Task 4

Conduct interviews with five or six organisations in each country (could be online or phone).

Task 5

Collate feedback and draft report to submit by 25 November 2022.

Task 6

Take feedback. Produce second draft by 9 December 2022.

Expressions of Interest

We are inviting Expressions of Interest for this piece of scoping work and are seeking someone with a proven record of undertaking similar projects as well as the following:

- A good understanding of the importance of NOS
- A good knowledge of organisations involved in reviewing NOS
- Experience of undertaking research and presenting reports
- A good understanding of the UK playwork sector.

Please note that to ensure an independent non-biased role that the successful individual would not be able to be involved directly in the future NOS review work.

The indicative budget for this piece of work is £2,500 including VAT.

To apply, please submit an Expression of Interest of no more than 1,500 words explaining how you would undertake this piece of scoping work and any specific experience. Please also include a professional CV.

Deadline for submissions

12 noon on Friday 9 September 2022.

For more information about this piece of work or to submit your EOI and CV please contact Martin King-Sheard – workforce@playwales.org.uk