

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:

Lesli Godfrey

2 What is your email address?

Email:

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Play England

4 Which proposal are you commenting on?

Proposal Name:

Playwork

Playwork

85 Do you support the development of the Apprenticeship Standard set out in the Expression of Interest?

Yes

Comment here:

It is really important for this unique sector to have appropriate training and qualifications. It would be helpful to differentiate further between the level 2 role and the level 3 roles, as the requirements are different. For example, the person at level 3 might often be in charge of the setting and therefore needs to manage budgets (at a basic level collect fees and balance the cash box), make reports and complete admin tasks. The detail of the standards will require a thorough consultation with the sector, to ensure they are fit for purpose and therefore attract high take up.

86 An Apprenticeship Standard must involve rigorous and substantial training of over a year to achieve full competence. Do you think this Apprenticeship Standard would take at least 12 months to develop the skills, knowledge and behaviour required for sufficient competence in this occupation? If no please give details.

Yes

Comment here:

The detail would be helpful in determining how long the programme should last, but one year for level 2 and 18 months for level 3 would seem achievable, although some flexibility should be allowed. By its very nature, playwork can only take place when children are not in school (evenings, weekends, school holidays) and many playworkers in out of school childcare work a 16 hour week. We think an apprenticeship contract taking this into account is vital in order to ensure access for people working in that area of the sector and the subsequent success of the development.

87 Are you aware of any other existing or proposed Apprenticeship Standards that may overlap with this one? If Yes please give details.

No

Comment here:

88 (if applicable) Would you potentially take on Apprentices using a Standard developed in this occupation? If Yes, can you say roughly how many you might take on in each year?

Yes - Less than 5

Comment here:

Play England is a national charity and voluntary organisation which does not employ play workers who work face to face with children. However, we do employ staff who undertake support and development work with play workers and would certainly consider taking an apprentice if the framework developed was relevant.

89 If this Standard is approved for development, would you be happy for us to contact you as part of wider consultation? If Yes, what is the best way to contact you?

Comment here:

The Chair of Play England is a member of the trailblazer employers group, wearing another hat as a direct employer of play workers, but I too would be happy to contribute to the consultation. I am a trustee of Play England, a former UK Strategic Lead for Playwork with SkillsActive and currently a senior lecturer at Leeds Beckett University.

Lesli.godfrey@btinternet.com

90 Do you have any other comments?**Free Text:**

This response is sent on behalf of Play England. At the National Playwork Conference in Eastbourne this week, Play England facilitated a round-table discussion on the current situation regarding Playwork qualifications. There were 14 employers at that discussion who were unanimously enthusiastic for the development of a Playwork apprenticeship, as long as it is relevant for the sector, not too long (i.e. 1 year for the level 2 seemed appropriate) and fit for purpose.

Play England welcomes the development of a relevant and accessible apprenticeship for playwork and thinks that, in order to ensure that the standards are fit-for-purpose through appropriate and extensive consultation, a later date might need to be considered for the start of delivery. If the apprenticeship framework is developed well, it could be extremely beneficial for the learner, the employer, the children with whom they work and the sector overall.