



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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## **Response to Estyn thematic review of learner support services for pupils aged 14–16**

## Recommendations and Responses

**Report Title:** Estyn Thematic Review of Learner support services for pupils aged 14-16

**Report Details:** This thematic survey was commissioned by DfES in 2013 to provide the Welsh Government with advice on the quality, consistency and impartiality of learner support services provided by schools to pupils before, during and at the end of key stage 4, as requested in the annual remit letter to Estyn from the Minister for Education and Skills.

### Directed at Schools

#### Recommendation 1

Suggests that schools should: *“focus learner support services on improving pupils’ attainment of high grades in GCSE English or Welsh first language and in mathematics”.*

#### Recommendation 2

Suggests that schools should: *“take a more strategic approach to learner support services and co-ordinate the delivery of learning coaching, personal support and careers advice and guidance”.*

#### Recommendation 3

Suggests that schools should: *“improve the scope and quality of careers advice and guidance.”*

#### Recommendation 4

Suggests that schools should: *“make sure that all pupils have regular discussions with the most appropriate support staff about their progress, aspirations and learning pathway, especially at key points in Year 9 and Year 11”.*

#### Recommendation 5

Suggests that schools should: *“provide all staff involved in giving advice and guidance with regular and up-to-date training and information”.*

**Recommendation 6**

Suggests that schools should: “*evaluate the impact of learner support services on outcomes*”.

**Recommendation 7**

Suggests that schools should: “*plan for possible reductions in funding for external support so as to sustain current levels of learner support*”

**General response to recommendations 1 – 7 addressed to Schools:**

Welsh Government will review and refresh existing guidance on Learner Support Services (WG Guidance document number 047/2011) in light of this report, and the role of learner support services in supporting the implementation the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en>.

The views of the Wales Strategic Forum for Career Development will be sought as part of the review of guidance.

Welsh Government will also write to schools to draw their attention to this report, encouraging them to address the recommendations contained within it.

**Directed at local authorities****Recommendation 8**

Suggests that local authorities should: “*lead and co-ordinate partnerships to support schools with external support services*”

**Response:**

This recommendation is consistent with the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework Implementation Plan, which gives local authorities strategic accountability for implementing the framework at a local level. In particular, we recognise the importance of support services being managed efficiently and effectively. The review of Guidance document 047/2011 will refer to this recommendation.

## Directed at Welsh Government

### Recommendation 9

Suggests that Welsh Government should: *“update its guidance to schools on careers advice and guidance to reflect the recent changes to the role of Careers Wales.”*

### Response

Welsh Government wrote to all schools in November 2013 setting out the revised remit of Careers Wales and directing them to [www.careerswales.com](http://www.careerswales.com) for resources to help them design and deliver effective Careers and the world of work programmes. The review of Guidance document 047/2011 will include roles and responsibilities of schools, colleges and Careers Wales in providing careers information, advice and guidance.

### Publication Details

The report will be published on or after 20 May 2014 and may be accessed on Estyn’s website [www.estyn.gov.uk](http://www.estyn.gov.uk).