

Dirprwy Gyfarwyddwr Plant, Pobl Ifanc a Theuluoedd
Deputy Director Children, Young People and Families



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

To:
CSSIW
SkillsActive
Play Wales
CWLWM Childcare Consortium
WLGA
Local Authority Chief Executives
Local Authority Play Co-ordinators
Local Authority Childcare Co-ordinators
Family Information Services

11 June 2015

cc. Care Council for Wales
Groundwork Wales

Dear Colleague,

Circular Letter WGC 004/2015– Temporary amendment to Standard 13.6(DC) of the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care 2012, in relation to holiday play schemes.

Please note under agreement from the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty, this Circular Letter will come into effect from the date of this letter.

Please ensure this amendment is communicated to all relevant parties and is put into effect forthwith.

Circular Letter WGC 004/2015 – Temporary amendment to Standard 13.6(DC) of the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care 2012, in relation to holiday play schemes.

Registration and Inspection of holiday play schemes

- 1. Present Legal Position**
- 2. Amendment to Standard 13.6(DC)**

3. Reason for Amendment

1. Present Legal Position

The Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations 2010 made under Part 2 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 set out the requirements for the range of registered child minding and day care provision, including open access and holiday play provision.

Schedule 1 paragraph 28 of the Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations 2010 requires *“the person in charge has the qualifications, skills and experience necessary for the role they perform in relation to the looking after of children under the age of eight”*.

Regulation 14(1) requires *“the registered person must have regard to the national minimum standards which relate to the type of care provided by the registered person”*.

The National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care, 2012 (NMS) in Standard 13.6(DC) states *“The person in charge has at least a level 3 qualification recognised on the Care Council for Wales’ current list of Accepted Qualifications for the Early Years and Childcare Workforce in Wales or Skills Active’s Integrated Qualification Framework for Playwork (or any lists which supercede them), which is appropriate to the post”*.

2. Amendment to Standard 13.6(DC) of the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care 2012

Stage 1 – to come into effect from June 2015 – September 2016

For the period stated, **Standard 13.6(DC)** will read:-

“The person in charge is required to hold at least a level 3 qualification recognised by the Care Council for Wales List of Required Qualifications to work within the Early Years and Childcare Sector in Wales or the SkillsActive List of Required Qualifications to work within the Playwork Sector in Wales (or any lists which supercede them), which is appropriate to the post.

For a holiday play scheme

The person in charge of a holiday play scheme should have the appropriate qualifications, skills and experience to undertake this role. The accepted qualifications will include a level 3 qualification recognised on the Care Council for Wales’ current List of Required Qualifications to work within the Early Years and Childcare Sector in Wales or SkillsActive’s List of Required Qualifications to work within the Playwork Sector in Wales (or any lists which supercede them), which is appropriate to the post, or a teaching, youth work, or other relevant qualifications at level 3 or above. The post holder should also have the relevant managerial skills and experience to effectively manage a holiday play scheme.”

Stage 2 – to come into effect from September 2016 – September 2018

For the period stated **Standard 13.6(DC)** will read:-

“The person in charge is required to hold at least a level 3 qualification recognised by the Care Council for Wales List of Required Qualifications to work within the Early Years and Childcare Sector in Wales or the SkillsActive List of Required Qualifications to work within the Playwork Sector in Wales (or any lists which supercede them)”, which is appropriate to the post.

For a holiday play scheme

The person in charge of a holiday play scheme should have the appropriate qualifications, skills and experience to undertake this role. The accepted qualifications will include a level 3 qualification recognised on the Care Council for Wales’ current List of Required Qualifications to work within the Early Years and Childcare Sector in Wales or SkillsActive’s List of Required Qualifications to work within the Playwork Sector in Wales (or any lists which supercede them), which is appropriate to the post, or a teaching, youth work, or other relevant qualifications at level 3 or above. The post holder should also have the relevant managerial skills and experience to effectively manage a holiday play scheme.

*Where the person in charge of a holiday play scheme does not hold a level 3 Playwork qualification, they should also hold the level 3 unit in “Managing a Holiday Play Scheme.” **

**During the summer of 2015, an Award in Managing a Holiday Play Scheme will be developed. This will provide an interim qualification which will be added to the SkillsActive List of Required Qualifications to work within the Playwork Sector in Wales, specifically for persons in charge of a holiday play scheme.*

Stage 3 – to be in effect from September 2018

From September 2018, **Standard 13.6(DC)** will read:-

“The person in charge is required to hold at least a level 3 qualification recognised by the Care Council for Wales List of Required Qualifications to work within the Early Years and Childcare Sector in Wales or the SkillsActive List of Required Qualifications to work within the Playwork Sector in Wales (or any lists which supercede them), which is appropriate to the post.

For a holiday play scheme

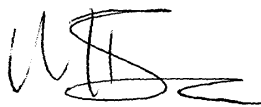
Standard 13.6(DC) applies to holiday play schemes as to other provision under the The National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care, 2012.”

3. Reason for the Amendment

A proportion of holiday play providers are experiencing difficulties in meeting the qualification requirements set out in the NMS. This is particularly the case for the Person in Charge holding a level 3 Playwork qualification. This has already led to a reduction in registered holiday play provision and raises concerns about the further loss of provision.

The Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty recognises the importance of holiday play provision for children and their parents. To avoid further loss of this valued provision, whilst ensuring the ongoing achievement of level 3 playwork qualifications for persons in charge of holiday play schemes, the Minister is issuing Circular Letter WGC 004/2015.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Martin Swain
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Deputy Director Children, Young People and Families