



A Quality Improvement Framework for the Early Learning and Childcare Sectors

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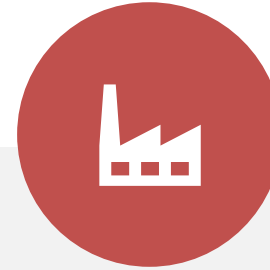
Aims of session



Share the journey
and update you
on progress



Clarify what the
framework means
for you and your
teams



Share our timeline
for piloting and
implementation of
the framework



Hear your views
and answer your
questions

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Stakeholder engagement

- In January, we analysed all comments and data from the consultation
- We shared a summary of the responses in April 2024 (<https://education.gov.scot/media/2hxb5ftt/elc-framework-infographic.pdf>)
- We continued our engagement with our stakeholder reference group, and with other professional experts to help refine and shape the draft framework.



You asked for

- Reduced duplication
- Sector specific content
- Clarity
- Consistency of language/terminology
- Reduced length of framework
- Challenge questions
- Links to national resources

CI and ES have

- Streamlined the framework number of QIs from 28 to 11
- Reduced duplication of content
- Provided sector specific content
- Clarified specific QIs for each body
- Made the framework interactive but also printable
- Added challenge questions
- Added links to resources

Core changes – reduction in QIs

Existing document ES

What is our capacity for improvement?		
Leadership and management	Learning provision	Successes and achievements
How good is our leadership and approach to improvement?	How good is the quality of the care and learning we offer?	How good are we at ensuring the best possible outcomes for all our children?
1.1 Self-evaluation for self-improvement 1.2 Leadership of learning 1.3 Leadership of change 1.4 Leadership and management of practitioners 1.5 Management of resources to promote equity	2.1 Safeguarding and child protection 2.2 Curriculum 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment 2.4 Personalised support 2.5 Family learning 2.6 Transitions 2.7 Partnerships	3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion 3.2 Securing children's progress 3.3 Developing creativity and skills for life and learning

Existing document CI

Key question 1: How good is our care, play and learning?	Key question 2: How good is our setting?	Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	Key question 4: How good is our staff team?
1.1 Nurturing care and support 1.2 Children are safe and protected 1.3 Play and learning 1.4 Family engagement 1.5 Effective transitions	2.1 Quality of the setting for care, play and learning 2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well 3.2 Leadership of play and learning 3.3 Leadership and management of staff and resources	4.1 Staff skills, knowledge, and values 4.2 Staff recruitment* 4.3 Staff deployment * *4.2 & 4.3 do not apply to childminders who do not work with assistants
Key question 5: What is our overall capacity for improvement?			

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A quality improvement framework for early learning and childcare sectors

Leadership	Children thrive and develop in quality spaces	Children play and learn	Children are supported to achieve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership and management of staff and resources • Leadership of continuous improvement • Staff, skills, knowledge, values and deployment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children experience high quality spaces and settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play and learning • Curriculum • Learning teaching and assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurturing care and support • Wellbeing, inclusion and equality • Children's progress • Safeguarding and child protection

Core changes – sector specific

Inspection and review

Shared inspection framework
Introduction
Principles of this self-evaluation framework
Roles and responsibilities
How to use the framework
How these frameworks are structured
Shared inspection glossary

Early learning
and childcare

School-aged
childcare

Childminding

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Demonstration of Digital Framework

The video is now available on the Care Inspectorate's [YouTube channel](#)

The quality improvement framework...

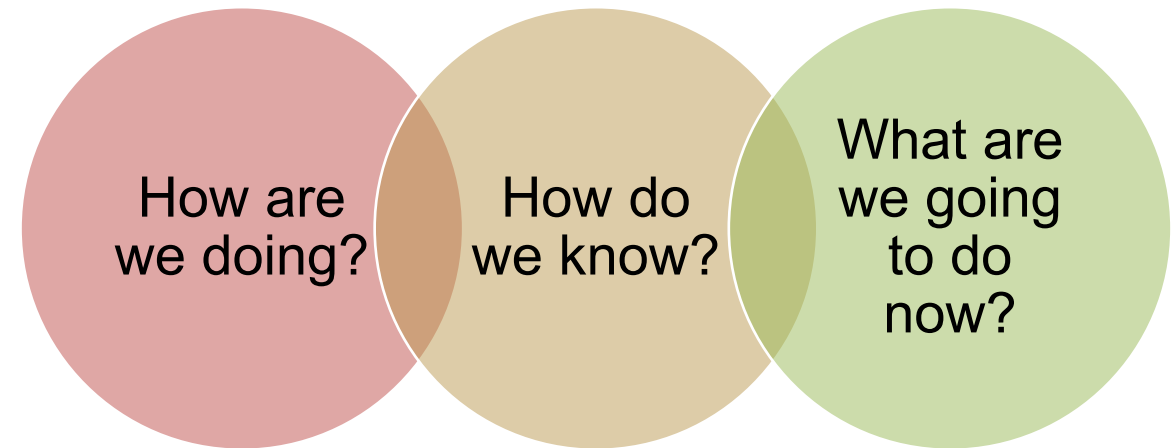
- One quality framework to be used by everyone in ELC, Childminding and School-aged childcare
- Includes sector-specific sections for childminders, school-aged childcare and ELC
- Substantially reduces the number of QIs used across previous frameworks from 28 to 11
- Focuses on key priority areas to create and sustain quality in services for children
- Includes challenge questions to support reflection and self-evaluation
- Includes links to National Resources – these will be incrementally updated
- Is an online document so that it can be updated and kept current
- Is rights based

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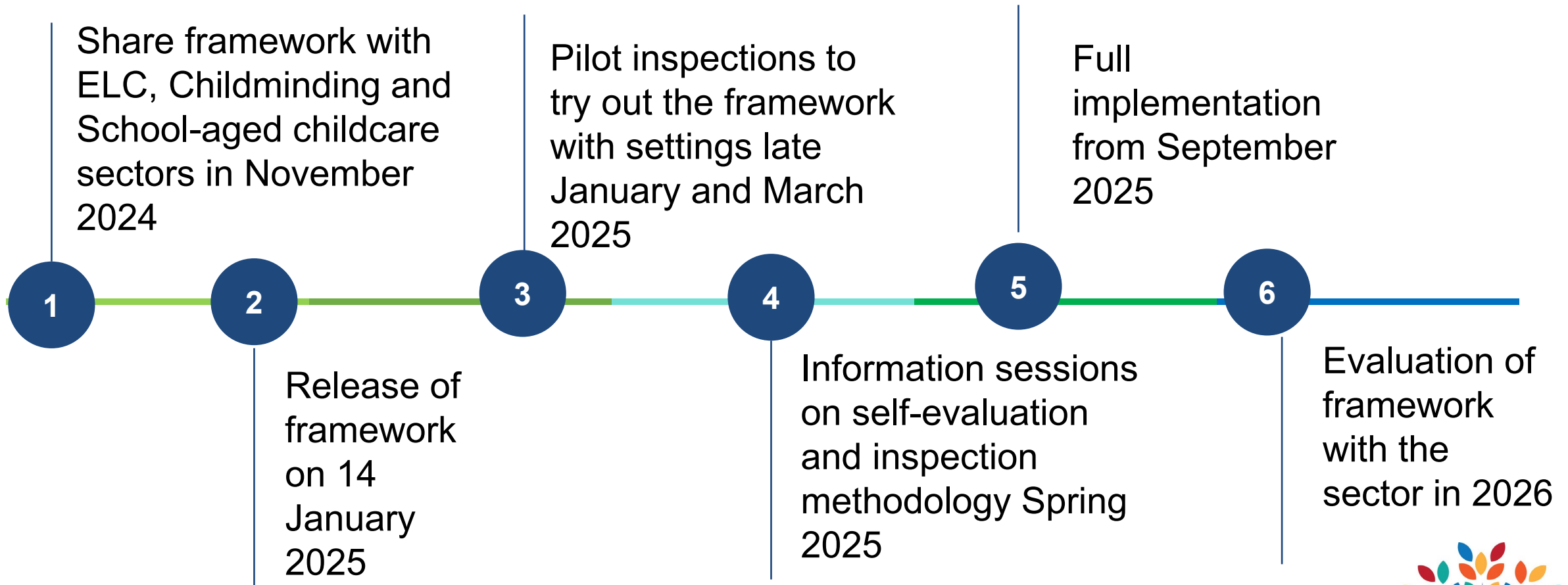
Self-evaluation



The process of self-evaluation is part of a wider quality assurance approach. It requires a cycle of reflection and can be based on the following questions



Timeline for use of the framework



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Question - Vote



To foster inspection clarity and transparency, the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland should develop case studies that illustrate the evaluation decision-making, including examples of strong and weak performance. Do you agree?

- Yes
- No

Question - Vote



To support improvement and a collaborative approach to inspection, would you like the opportunity to choose an additional quality indicator for us to evaluate during your inspection?

- **Yes**
- **No**

What does this mean for me and my team



Engage with the framework when released and discuss with your colleagues



Think about how you might use it ahead of implementation in September 2025



Consider volunteering to be part of the pilots

Share your feedback and sign up for the pilot inspections using **‘A quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors’**



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Thank you for your engagement



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