



# Validated Self- Evaluation

## 2013-14

### Vision for VSE

Validated self-evaluation aims to support and challenge the work of education authorities through HMIE and the council working in partnership.

- It is **not** inspection.
- It is founded on existing self-evaluation work in councils.
- It is voluntary – councils need to request a VSE.
- It is led by the authority.
- It informs the shared risk assessment process and clearly articulates with best value 2.

### Aims and outcomes of VSE

- Build the capacity of education authorities to evaluate their services and improve the quality of services and outcomes for learners;
- Support the education authority's own self-evaluation and quality systems;
- Support, promote and develop good practice and best value in education authorities;
- Provide information to Scottish Ministers and the public on the quality of provision in education authorities;
- Offer independent validation of an education authority's self-evaluation;
- Contribute to the reduction in unnecessary external scrutiny at service level;
- Provide high quality and robust information for the shared risk assessment process; and
- Ensure that the focus of HMIE is on improvement of outcomes for learners.

### Relationships and Culture

- Requires the establishment of an open and trusting relationship between HMIE and authority staff;
- Crucial that the authority is open, frank and accurate in its self-evaluation and, where relevant, shares its areas of strength along with any concerns about specific establishments/services or aspects of its work; and
- HMIE will engage in an open and frank manner with authority staff.
- Crucial part of the early engagement stage is to develop appropriate working relationships based on mutual respect and trust.

### So what is different?

- VSE is validation of the findings of the authority's self-evaluation rather than inspection.
- VSE is not part of a cyclical programme of inspections, but can form part of the cycle of self-evaluation and improvement planning.
- VSE recognises that responsibility for improvement lies clearly with the education authority.
- HMIE's role is to support and challenge.

## **What does VSE consider?**

- Mandatory areas
  - Improvements in performance
  - Impact on learners
  - Capacity for improvements
- Some areas selected by authority – themes
  - Achievement
  - Partnership
  - Developing our people
  - Etc
- No six-point scale evaluations

## **So how does it work?**

- Phase 1: Initial engagement
- Phase 2: Working together on self-evaluation
- Phase 3: Stocktaking
- Phase 4: Working together on matters arising
- Phase 5 Reporting

## **What would success look like?**

- A set of agreed actions as a result of VSE
- Improved understanding, use and accuracy of self-evaluation
- Strengthened relationships between stakeholders based on openness and trust
- What else....?