

SECTOR - LEADING PRACTICE

Important points for inspectors

1. When considering 'excellent', inspectors need to secure that there are '**many strengths**' before moving to a consideration of 'sector-leading practice'. The presence of some new or innovative practices would not on their own be enough to trigger an 'Excellent' judgement unless there were also 'many strengths' to go alongside them.
2. 'Sector-leading' means just that, the quality of the provision is **ahead of others** in the sector and is highly likely to be some of the best work observed.
3. 'Sector-leading' does not simply mean that something is just new or unique – it must also be highly effective, and the effectiveness should be seen in terms of its **clear impact on learners' progress and achievement**.
4. 'Sector-leading' means **innovation and cutting edge** work that pushes the boundaries of what is there in the sector already.
5. 'Sector-leading' means that the provision offers, or has the potential to offer, leadership and can act as an **exemplar to the sector** in terms of highly effective and high quality work.
6. An important element of sector-leading practice is the **dissemination and sharing** of this practice, such as where the provider has actively used the excellent/sector-leading work within networks of professional practice both internally and externally.
7. What constitutes excellence and sector-leading practice **is likely to change** as the inspection cycle moves on and providers improve.
8. 'Sector-leading' **does not** mean that there is any pre-set quota on the number or proportion of 'excellent' judgements inspectors can make.