“Before I begin my speech, I’d like to set out a few guidelines for how often you need to applaud.”
VSE and Educational Psychology Services: why?

- Need for robust evidence to feed into the Shared Risk Assessment.
- Need to look again at the contribution which educational psychology is making to the national priorities and to ensure that this is accurately reflected and evaluated at a national level.
- VSE fits with the changing scrutiny landscape.
“Diabetes has increased dramatically over the past 20 years. That proves that diabetes is caused by global warming!”
“Thinking outside of the box didn’t work. Thinking inside of the box didn’t work. Maybe it’s a defective box!”
The Scrutiny Landscape

‘to provide the best blend of national support and challenge to inspire and secure continuous improvement in the opportunities that all Scottish learners can access’.
What do we have?

- **Good information on performance of educational psychology services:**
  - Inspection of 32 EPS between 2006 and 2011
  - Link Inspector reports
  - Establishment inspections
  - VSE in Educational Authorities

- **Maturing self-evaluation in EPS services**
- **Shared Risk Assessment and resulting Area Improvement Plans (AIP)**
So what is VSE?

- 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 EPS’s own cycle of self-evaluation and improvement planning.
- VSE recognises that responsibility for improvement lies clearly with the education authority and the EPS.
- Education Scotland’s role is to support and challenge.
- The methodology is based on coaching and mentoring, peer collaboration and vygotsian thinking.
We Need To Think Differently

They only taught me how to think outside of the box. I'm not trained for circles!!!

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Two themes which are common across all VSEs and which link to Scottish Government National Priorities

1. Learning and Teaching (Raising attainment and achievement, closing the gap....)
2. Partnership working (GIRFEC, Early Years Collaborative.....)

A third theme may be chosen by the EPS to reflect a unique aspect of their service delivery/context.
Stage 1: Initial engagement
• The Area Lead Officer (ALO) and Lead Facilitator (LF) from Education Scotland discuss and agree the shape of the VSE for the EPS.

Stage 2: Working together on self-evaluation
• Education Scotland provide an HMI team to work alongside EPS staff with the purpose of improving the quality of the EPS self-evaluation
Stage 3: Working together and reporting

- Education Scotland will work with the EPS and education authority to develop the key areas of improvement identified in the VSE. This may form part of the Partnership Agreement between ES and the EA. Education Scotland will prepare a report which focuses on improvement.
What would success look like?

- A set of agreed actions as a result of VSE.
- Improved understanding, use and accuracy of self-evaluation.
- A national overview of the contribution of educational psychology to the national priorities.
- Improved services to stakeholders
- Stronger partnerships within the educational authority and across the council.
- What else …?
IN CLOSING, LET ME TELL YOU THAT NEVER IN THE UNIVERSE HAVE I SPOKEN BEFORE SUCH AN ATTENTIVE AUDIENCE.