



PRESS NOTICE: 21st November 2012

“Careers Guidance for young people – too much left to chance”

Careers England, the trade association for businesses providing careers services in England, today published its major survey of its members’ experiences of working with schools and Local Authorities as the new **duty for schools to ‘secure access to independent careers guidance’ for their students** took effect from September 2012.

The survey covered members working with over 1500 of England's secondary schools, in 40 % of the LA areas of the country.

Speaking today about the survey, Steve Stewart OBE, chair of the Careers England Board said:

- *“In a nutshell the survey shows that the ill-defined statutory duty, coupled with minimalist Statutory Guidance must to be strengthened. Schools have been let down by the DfE, poorly prepared for the transition to their new role. And to expect more and better careers guidance for students, when schools have not a penny more for the new duty, is not delegation of the duty to schools it is abdication by the Department for Education (DfE).*
- **The survey tells us bluntly that too much has been left to chance.**
- *There are examples of schools acting as we would expect with great responsibility. So too are there LAs who are diligently discharging their continuing duties to assist vulnerable young people and to track universally the pathways and destinations of all 16-19s in their areas.*
- *But, equally there is a picture of dramatic reductions in the volumes of professional careers guidance being secured externally by schools.*
- *Only 16.5% of the 1500 schools we know of have retained this year the level of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) they provided in 2011-12.*
- *There are around 4000 secondary and special schools in England with 14-16 year olds, and if our survey result is replicated across all it means that 83.5% of schools have reduced provision. That is about 3300 schools.*
- **Too many schools appear not to understand that their duty, which according to the face of the Education Act 2011, cannot be fully discharged by an employee of the school.**
- *Yet our survey shows that 109 schools of the 1500 have recently employed their own careers adviser, and many have made no additional arrangements to secure*



externally provided independent careers guidance which is informed by the labour market.

- *Many schools are struggling with what the duty really means. One comment that the school says "it will meet the minimum Ofsted requirement" is a worry. There is no such Ofsted requirement. Ofsted will not regulate the duty. Nor seemingly will the DfE.*
- *So what is the purpose of an ill-defined, totally under-resourced duty? What is the test of sufficiency in how the duty is fulfilled? How can Parliament be sure that all schools are doing the right thing by all of their students? There have to be stronger lines of accountability for what is a statutory service.*
- *Our survey shows that many of the schools who are newly employing their own careers adviser have recruited those holding what is Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) Level 5 (in 'old money', NVQ 4 in advice and guidance). This is below the professional QCF Level 6 which Ministers say rightly they want 50% of the workforce of the National Careers Service for Adults to hold.*
- *Why does DfE not make QCF L6 the requirement before any school can secure the services of a careers adviser, whether employed internally or secured externally (as only the latter does to fulfil the statutory duty)? Would a school be allowed or even be wise to buy the services of an unqualified non-registered engineer to service their school heating boilers? Of course not.*
- *So why, when all providers of the National Careers Service are required to hold the **matrix** standard for IAG is a school able to secure careers guidance services for young people from providers who don't hold that award?*
- ***On the evidence from our survey, we are calling today for action.***
- *We need the Statutory Guidance on the new duty to be strengthened.*
- *We need quality standards for school internal provision to be advocated more strongly, only England's dedicated CEIAG Quality Awards (nationally validated by the Quality in Careers Standard) can accredit all four components of CEIAG, beginning with the essential foundation of careers education – 'career learning'.*
- *We need externally secured careers information, advice and guidance only to be secured by schools from **matrix** Standard accredited providers.*
- *And no careers guidance provision which is fulfilling the statutory duty should in the future be delivered by anyone other than a QCF Level 6 careers guidance professional."*

ENDS



Notes to Editors

- (i) Careers England is the national **Trade Association** for organisations involved in the provision of careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) products and services in England for people of all ages. **Our members provide aspects of some, or all, of the four components of CEIAG:**
- a. Careers education (that is “career learning”)
 - b. Careers information
 - c. Careers advice
 - d. Careers guidance
- (ii) Careers England is principally, therefore, an **employer body**. Our full members comprise the majority of prime contractors for the **National Careers Service** along with a significant number of sub-contractors and ‘careers providers’ delivering publicly-funded careers guidance services for local authorities (LAs), schools and colleges across England.
- (iii) Our associate members include a growing number of smaller partnerships and sole traders in the careers business, as well as a number of organisations not directly providing CEIAG services but wishing to be associated with Careers England.
- (iv) We also provide the project leadership, administration and management for the **Quality in Careers Standard** (the national validation for England’s 13 specialist Quality Awards - for Schools, Colleges & Work-Based Learning Providers - covering all four components of CEIAG).
- (v) Full details of all Careers England’s members, our activities, our publications (including Key Policy Summaries on the Coalition Government’s policies for careers guidance), links to the CEIAG Quality Award providers and the Quality in Careers Standard can be found at www.careersengland.org.uk

Further Details are available from

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