

National Careers Service for England



By [John Hayes](#)

Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning (jointly with the Department for Education)

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[Statement]

John Hayes, Minister of State for Further Education and Lifelong Learning, announced on 4 November 2010 that there would be an all-age careers service in England by April 2012, with new arrangements for careers guidance accessible from September 2011.

The key features of the new National Careers Service are described below; the roles of schools and local authorities in new arrangements for young people are set out on the [Department for Education's website](#).

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will:

- continue to fund a high quality online and helpline service for adults. From September 2011, these will be linked to similar services for young people, so there is a single point of access for all users of each service; and
- continue to fund a network of public, private and voluntary sector organisations to provide face to face careers guidance to adults.

The single points of access to online and helpline services, and the network of organisations funded by BIS, will be known as the National Careers Service from April 2012. As well as providing free face to face guidance to priority groups, the network of organisations funded by BIS will be able to offer services on the open market to those individuals/organisations which are willing to pay.

Subject to passage of the Education Bill, from September 2012 schools will be under a legal duty to make sure their pupils have access to independent, impartial careers guidance, recognising that schools are best placed to make decisions about the kind of support that will meet the needs of their pupils. Schools will be free to make arrangements for careers guidance that best suit the needs of their pupils, engaging, where appropriate, in partnership with external, expert providers.

To ensure the quality of careers guidance, BIS is working – with the support of the careers professional associations – to:

- establish a quality standard, which will assure users that providers of careers guidance are delivering a high quality service. Organisations in the National Careers Service will be required to hold the standard; and
- provide a focus on expert, professional careers guidance, through common professional standards and codes of ethics, supported by appropriate initial training and continuing professional development. Organisations in the National Careers Service will be expected to support their staff to achieve these standards.

The indicative BIS budget for information, advice and guidance services in 2012-13 is £84.4 million. This figure is subject to final confirmation when budgets for 2012-13 are agreed across the Department