



PRESS NOTICE: 23rd April 2013

House of Commons Education Select Committee report on
Careers Guidance for young people:

***“GOVERNMENT RESPONSE IS A CAUSE FOR CONCERN;
GOOD INTENTIONS ARE NOT ENOUGH”***

Careers England, the trade association for businesses providing careers services in England, today provides a detailed analysis of the Government's 22nd April response to the House of Commons Education Select Committee report on careers guidance for young people.

Paul Chubb, Executive Director for Careers England, said: ***“It is a disappointing response, and a cause for concern. Good intentions are not enough; every young person deserves CEIAG support of the highest quality. That is why the Select Committee was right to call for enhanced accountability and for quality assurance arrangements to be strengthened - we will continue to argue the case for these.”***

Careers England warmly welcomed the January 2013 report of the Education Select Committee¹ on careers guidance for young people, and endorsed its core recommendations. In particular, we welcomed:

- The strong support for the 'three-pronged' approach to quality standards, and to making it mandatory. This would mean that all schools would now be required to work towards the a Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance (CEIAG) Quality Award which is nationally validated by the Quality in Careers Standard, and to procure services only from quality assured (the Matrix Standard) providers and

¹ House of Commons Education Committee (2013). *Careers Guidance for Young People: the Impact of the New Duty on Schools*. HC 632-1. London: Stationery Office. For a detailed analysis, see Watts, A.G. (2013). *Education Select Committee Report on Careers Guidance for Young People*. Careers England Policy Commentary 18.



qualified individuals (QCF Level 6 careers professionals).

- The statement that every young person should be entitled to at least one careers interview with a qualified careers professional.
- The notion that all schools should be required to publish an annual careers plan, and to review it annually, taking into account the views of students, parents, employers and other learning providers.
- The extension of the remit of the National Careers Service to include a capacity-building role in schools, with funding provided for this purpose.

An independent analysis of the Select Committee report, commissioned by Careers England from Professor Tony Watts, was published by Careers England on 23rd January and is attached. It noted that it was a strong report which *'requires significant action from the Government, but within the framework of its existing policies'*.

Yesterday the Government's response² to the Select Committee's report was published. **It is a disappointing response, and a cause for concern.**

Careers England has published a further detailed independent analysis of the Government's response; it is also attached. To quote from the analysis:

- *"The response rejects several of the report's key recommendations; others it defers until the results of the current Ofsted thematic review of careers guidance in schools are published in the summer.*
- *Of the few recommendations that appear to be accepted, most are broadly in line with existing Government policies: the phrasing of the responses requires minimal additional actions on the Government's part.*
- *The sole exception is the recommendation that the remit of the National Careers Service be expanded to enable it to perform a capacity-building and brokerage role for schools; however, the positive response to this includes no statement on funding implications. "*

Professor Watts' analysis for Careers England continues with the disappointing news that: *"Four recommendations are firmly rejected by the Government:*

² House of Commons Education Committee (2013). *Careers Guidance for Young People: the Impact of the New Duty on Schools: Government Response to the Committee's Seventh Report of Session 2012-13*. HC 1078. London: Stationery Office. For a detailed analysis, see Watts, A.G. (2013). *Government Response to Education Select Committee Report*. Careers England Policy Commentary 20.



- *That schools should publish a careers plan, to be reviewed annually (Recommendation 13).*
- *That each young person should be guaranteed a minimum of one personal careers interview with an independent adviser (Recommendation 16).*
- *That schools should be required to implement quality standards in relation to their careers provision (Recommendation 23).*
- *That the statutory duty on schools to provide careers education and work-related learning should be reinstated (Recommendation 24)."*

Publishing Professor Watts' analysis of the Government's response to the Select Committee, Paul Chubb, Executive Director for Careers England, said:

" To an extent it was predictable that much of what the Committee recommended would be 'kicked into touch' pending the outcome of the Ofsted Thematic Survey of careers guidance currently being undertaken in England.

What is of greatest concern to us is that the policy adopted by the Government continues to take little account of the context of today's increasingly complex labour markets for young people, and the benefits which quality assured CEIAG can bring.

Careers England's members know that to assist young people to make successful transitions through their learning and work choices - and to assist employers to ensure our nation is economically successful – the changed statutory duty makes this the most crucial time for CEIAG for all young people across England. Yet Ministers appear content not to put in place the enhanced accountability measures the Committee recommended.

*The need for professionally delivered, quality assured careers guidance, which is informed by the needs of the labour market was most recently illustrated by the report '**Nothing In Common: the career aspirations of young Britons mapped against projected labour market demand (2010-2020)**'³.*

We are fully committed to doing all we can to make the new arrangements –'regrettable' as they may be, to quote the Select Committee - work as effectively as possible. Hence we will continue to gather evidence of positive examples of where the new arrangements are working well, including by updating the major survey we undertook last autumn.

³ Published March 2013 by the Education & Employers Taskforce (to access the report contact info@educationandemployers.org) in conjunction with b-live and the UK Commission for Employment and Skills.



Our responsibility is also to highlight where young people are not receiving the careers education and guidance support they need.

*The Select Committee took evidence from a wide range of sources, and the overwhelming views remain that, whilst there are schools which are putting in place robust arrangements, too much is still being left to chance. **Good intentions are not enough; every young person deserves CEIAG support of the highest quality. That is why the Select Committee was right to call for enhanced accountability and for quality assurance arrangements to be strengthened - we will continue to argue the case for these.***

There is good work to build upon. We can celebrate that over 1100 schools and colleges are voluntarily putting their overall CEIAG provision to the test through being assessed by one of England's 12 dedicated CEIAG Quality Awards. The overarching national validation of these Awards, the Quality in Careers Standard, has begun the process of 'kite-marking' each of these Awards to ensure national consistency is secured. 5 of the CEIAG Quality Awards have now met the QiCS national validation criteria.⁴

Government already makes reference to these Awards in its Statutory Guidance, but stops short of recommending (or better still, requiring) schools to work towards achieving recognition for the quality of their CEIAG support for their students. We urge Government to reconsider this.

We await the findings from Ofsted, and will want to look closely at how we can assist to promote further exemplars of good practice. Should Ofsted find that there is a need for some of the Select Committee's recommendations to be reconsidered, we trust that -for the benefit of young people, and for our economic success - Ministers will respond positively and revise the Statutory Guidance to Schools and Colleges in the Autumn. "

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⁴ Press Notice: Quality in Careers Consortium, 22.4.13 (attached) "Five CEIAG Quality Awards Achieve National Validation"



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) 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).

(iv) 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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