



PRESS RELEASE

Inspiring Careers: UK Careers Sector aims high despite spending cuts

National careers sector stakeholders have launched a forum to develop a UK-wide framework for all-age, all-stage career information, advice and guidance (IAG). Called the UK Careers Sector Strategic Forum, and chaired by Sir Martin Harris (Director for Fair Access), the Forum will galvanise and mobilise careers sector stakeholders around the themes of improving career management skills, access to career IAG services, delivering high-quality services, and improved national co-ordination of career guidance provision.

The UK Careers Sector Strategic Forum is being launched at a time when funding cuts loom. But the Forum strongly welcomes three reports published over the last few days to the extent that they have emphasised the increasing policy importance of career guidance:

1. Lord Browne's Review of Higher Education funding stresses the importance of helping students make informed choices of what and where to study. It recommends that every school be required to make individualised careers advice available to its pupils. It further recommends that this advice should be delivered by certified careers professionals who are independent and whose status in schools is respected and valued.
2. The Task Force on the Careers Profession chaired by Dame Ruth Silver makes 14 recommendations designed to develop a strong careers profession and to reinforce a partnership approach based on provision within schools and support from an external service.
3. The Employer and Education Task Force calls for greater partnership working between employers and schools, in support of careers education programmes in schools.

Sir Martin Harris, Chair of the Forum and Director for Fair Access at OFFA, said: "The UK Careers Sector Strategic Forum will make an important contribution to career information and guidance provision at this crucial time for our country. Notwithstanding the difficulties we face from looming budget cuts, the Forum provides a collective voice for the Careers Sector to offer our young people and those at work a positive vision for accessing high-quality career support, in order to achieve their aspirations for learning, for work, and for making a contribution to our economy and society."

Professor Tony Watts, a leading international expert on career guidance, said: "The UK Careers Sector Strategic Forum will work assiduously to revitalise the role played by careers services at all stages of life, including all young people. Similar Forums are being set up in many European countries. The new Forum will link the UK into international networks as well as playing an important role within the UK itself."

Forum members will meet Government Ministers to discuss career IAG provision following the spending review to ensure that high-quality and independent provision remains a key policy priority.

UK Careers Sector Strategic Forum Press Release

Date: 19th October 2010

Notes:

The UK Careers Sector Strategic Forum draws on stakeholders from the careers profession, trade unions, the business sector and relevant education stakeholders.

Working in partnership with Government across the four nations, the Forum has identified a number of immediate priorities:

- Work closely with the Government to develop an all-age careers service in England, learning the lessons from the all-age services in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- Respond to the Browne Review with proposals for ensuring high-quality and independent career IAG support for young people.
- Act on the recommendations from the recent report from the Department for Education Task Force on the careers profession chaired by Dame Ruth Silver.

Members of the UK Careers Sector Strategic Forum include:

Association for Careers Education and Guidance (ACEG)
Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS)
Association of Graduate Recruiters (AGR)
British Chambers (BCCI)
Careers England
CBI
City & Guilds
Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE)
Institute of Career Guidance (ICG)
International Centre for Guidance Studies (iCeGS)
Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK)
National Association for Educational Guidance for Adults (NAEGA)
National Connexions Network
National Institute for Careers Education and Counselling (NICEC)
National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE)
Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)
Science Council
Skills Development Scotland
TUC and unionlearn
UCAS
UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES)
Universities UK (UUK)

A convening committee guides the work of the UK Careers Sector Strategic Forum, with membership from: Ian Borkett (TUC and unionlearn), Vivienne Brown (Skills Development Scotland), Margaret Dane (AGCAS), Deirdre Hughes (Careers Professional Alliance), Prof Tony Watts and Keith Herrmann.

The UK Careers Sector Strategic Forum is convened by the Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE). The Convenor is Keith Herrmann, Director of Higher Ed Research and former Deputy Chief Executive of CIHE.

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