

PRESS NOTICE: 22.4.2013

"FIVE CEIAG QUALITY AWARDS ACHIEVE NATIONAL VALIDATION"

Dr. Barrie Hopson, chair of the Quality in Careers Consortium, established to oversee the national validation of England's specialist quality awards for all four aspects of careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) announces today **the first 5 CEIAG Quality Awards to meet the exacting national validation criteria of the Quality in Careers Standard (QiCS).**

Dr Hopson said today "In the context of today's increasingly complex labour markets for young people, and to assist employers to ensure our nation is economically successful, this is **a crucial time for CEIAG for all young people across England, as most recently illustrated by the report 'Nothing In Common: the career aspirations of young Britons mapped against projected labour market demand (2010-2020)'¹**

To help schools and colleges to enhance the quality of their overall CEIAG provision, all of England's 12 specialist CEIAG Quality Awards are fully committed to work towards QiCS national validation. Five panels have been held across the country in the opening months of 2013.

We are delighted that we can confirm that the following 5 specialist CEIAG Quality Awards now meet the over-arching national validation standard. These are:

- 1. Career Mark (Nottinghamshire Futures)**
- 2. Inspiring IAG (Greater Manchester)**
- 3. Investor in Careers (Careers South West)**
- 4. Prospects Award in CEIAG (Prospects Services)**
- 5. Recognition of Quality Award for CEIAG (Essex County Council)**

¹ 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.

Each of these specialist, dedicated CEIAG quality awards aims to ensure that providing CEIAG of the highest quality should be the goal for everyone working with young people across the country in our schools, colleges, work-based learning and in specialist careers guidance organisations."

Project Leader for QiCS, Paul Chubb, commented: *"This is such encouraging news to be able to celebrate. As Barrie Hopson says above, these are the most challenging times both for young people as they progress towards their late teens and early 20s, as well as for the CEIAG professionals striving to help all young people to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to take control of their future learning and work, and to secure their economic success.*

For me, the Quality in Careers Standard is a real beacon of hope for every young person, and with these 5 Awards now demonstrating they meet our 16 national validation criteria, this will assure young people and their families that, where their school or college holds one of these Awards, it has in place the essential foundations which CEIAG needs to prepare young people to make best use of the careers guidance which they will receive. We now look forward to the remaining 7 Awards, which are already working through their applications, coming forward for national validation in the coming months.

*The **Quality in Careers Standard** is becoming firmly established in the fabric of the new era in which schools and colleges have a new statutory duty to 'secure independent careers guidance' for all of their students.*

*The **House of Commons Education Select Committee**, in January 2013, recommended that all schools should be required to work towards a dedicated CEIAG Award which is nationally validated by QiCS.*

With over 1100 schools and colleges voluntarily working towards or holding a dedicated CEIAG quality award already, we commend - to every Head Teacher/College Principal and school/college governing body - our belief that the new statutory duty on schools and colleges to secure independent careers guidance for pupils and students (in years 8 through to post-16 from September 2013), will be most effective when these three elements coexist in a school or college:

- *Its overall CEIAG programme is quality assured against one of the dedicated Quality Awards available and that Award should meet the QiCS national validation.*
- *The school/college builds upon its internal programme by securing specialist careers advice and guidance services from an external provider, close to the labour market and therefore able to assist young people to make informed choices – such a provider should meet the accepted 'industry standard' for advice and guidance on learning and work, the '**matrix Standard**'.*
- *The externally secured provider of careers guidance should employ professional careers advisers who are occupationally competent to professional standards – as determined by the Career Development Institute".*

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. **Further Details Are Available From: Paul Chubb**, Project Leader for the QiCS. Tel: 07976 575536, paul.chubb@careersengland.org.uk

2. **The Career Development Institute** is working towards establishing a new national framework of qualifications for career development work with all age groups, part of which includes the establishment of a new national Register of careers professionals qualified to the equivalent of QCF (Qualifications and Credit Framework) Level 6. The Career Development Institute became the united professional body for the careers professions on 1st April 2013. For details please see www.cparegister.co.uk and www.thecdi.net

3. **Full details of the QUALITY IN CAREERS STANDARD** are on the Careers England website: <http://www.careersengland.org.uk/quality.php?page=introduction>

4. **The Quality in Careers Consortium Board** currently comprises:
 - Dr. Barrie Hopson (who succeeded Dame Ruth Silver as founding Chair);
 - Association for Careers Education and Guidance (ACEG) nominee, Vince Barrett, former President; *[note: ACEG is now succeeded by the CDI and the constitution of the QiCCB is being revised to take account of this].*
 - Association of Colleges (AoC) nominee, Joy Mercer, Director of Policy (Education);
 - Association of Employment and Learning Providers (AELP) nominee, Graham Hoyle, Chief Executive;
 - Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) nominee, Duncan Baldwin, Deputy Policy Director;
 - CEIAG Expert Invitee, David Andrews (CEIAG Consultant);
 - Careers England nominee, Virginia Isaac, Member of the CE Quality Task Group;
 - Career Development Institute (CDI) nominee, Sue Barr
 - Institute of Career Guidance (ICG) nominee, David Milton, former ICG President; *[note: ICG is now succeeded by the CDI and the constitution of the QiCCB is being revised to take account of this].*
 - National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) nominee, Sion Humphreys, Assistant Secretary (Secondary); and
 - Project Leader: Paul Chubb (Careers England).

5. **The House of Commons Education Select Committee** Report is summarised in the Careers England Policy Commentary accessible here: <http://www.careersengland.org.uk/documents/Public/Policy%20Commentary%2018.pdf>