

REPORT FOR CAREERS ENGLAND

Compiled by **Montrose Public Affairs Consultants**
April 2013

MEDIA AND POLITICAL COVERAGE OF "CEIAG" ISSUES MARCH 2012-MARCH 2013

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THE COMPILERS' INTRODUCTION & COMMENTARY: *Careers England invited Montrose Public Affairs Consultants to look at media coverage of **careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG)** issues over the last year, i.e. since March 2012. We have also sought to map the concurrent political developments related to CEIAG. These are set out below in chronological order covering the past 13 months.*

The Education Act (2011) introduced from September 2012 a revised statutory duty which was placed on schools to secure access to independent careers guidance for pupils aged 14-16. On 9 May 2012, the Department for Education published a consultation on extending the duty to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance down to Year 8 pupils, and up to 16-18 year olds in schools and colleges from September 2013. Following the Consultation the Government agreed in December 2012 to 'extend access to independent and impartial careers guidance to 16-18 year olds in schools and colleges to help young people make well informed decisions about their education, training and work options,' and to include Year 8 pupils in the duty's coverage.

It was expected that the requirement for independence would ensure that schools would source this guidance externally, thereby avoiding a potential conflict of interest between school and pupil (the partiality of school-based advice has been a long-standing concern). However, research suggests that some schools have focused instead on internal provision, with staff members (often not fully qualified) delivering the majority of advice, supported by national online or telephone services, rather than the more expensive option of 'face to face advice and guidance' from an independent careers professional. This has led to concerns about the quality and impartiality of such advice and guidance.

Changes have also come into effect concerning school-led work experience. In 2012, the duty on schools to provide Year 11 pupils with two weeks of 'work-related learning' was repealed on the advice of the 2011 Wolf Report. The statutory requirement to provide careers education has also been removed. Professionals in the sector want schools to embed careers work across everything they do, including the curriculum. These developments have led to growing concerns over the quality and scope of CEIAG available in schools, and the negative effects this might have on the skills, inclusion,

social justice, social mobility, and access agendas. Evidence so far suggests, at best, a patchy service in terms of quality and scope, as well as some confusion in schools as to what exactly is required of them and this confusion extends to their interpretation of what constitutes 'independent' professional advice and guidance.

It is extremely difficult to find much evidence in support of the government's current approach to CEIAG in schools. Indeed, several reports from, for example, the **Education Select Committee, Alan Milburn, HEFC, London Observatory of Skills and Employment, Careers England, the AOC, ICGES/ Pearson Think Tank , NFER , 'Which', the Work Foundation, CIPD, and Working Links**, paint a negative, dysfunctional picture of the current status of CEIAG in England's schools. And, importantly, the negative effects this is having on the political, social, and economic agendas listed above. Other than isolated examples of schools using the changed duty to make enhancements, the only supportive statements are included in Ministers' speeches and exchanges in Parliament, in debates (for example on Apprenticeships) and in answers to oral and written questions tabled by backbench MPs and Peers. Indeed the government's own supporters are constantly seeking reassurance about the efficacy of the policy rather than obviously seeking to endorse it, with Ministers habitually on the defensive.

There does seem to be a consensus that the quality of CEIAG in schools has, certainly in the past 10/12 years, been poor. Yet to make the changes which this Coalition Government has introduced does not follow any robust international evidence. In fact, international evidence, as Professor Tony Watts has pointed out, suggests that an institutional focus of schools provision of advice and guidance militates against the delivery of effective careers guidance.

School autonomy, and safeguarding it, is central to the government's justification for its current policy. The proposition is that schools themselves are best placed to identify their own priorities and allocate resources accordingly. While the principle appears sound the practice is problematic, particularly in terms of the political agendas politicians have set themselves. This principle of autonomy has already, in fact , been compromised or is in the process of being compromised , in areas such as sports provision , and, crucially, in narrowing the achievement gap, through the use of the Pupil Premium etc. (schools are now being held closely to account by Ofsted and central government on precisely how they use their funds in respect of disadvantaged pupils to close the achievement gap). It is also the case that the existing Funding Agreements between the Secretary of State and individual academies (which vary considerably in their content) significantly limit, in practice, their operational independence. It is also a myth that academies enjoy the same independence, for example, as private schools.

No third party endorsement, in the form of robust independent reports or substantial empirical evidence, is available in support of government policy for CEIAG over the last year, although it should be stressed that this is early days, with the statutory duty applying only since from September 2012, and for Year 8 and 16-18 year olds from September 2013. Indeed what evidence is available suggests widespread concerns over the quality and scope of available CEIAG in schools, combined with sustained demands for greater accountability and transparency, through inspection.

Ofsted's thematic review of careers guidance in schools, due out in the summer, is important as it will help inform its new inspection framework, as Sir Michael Wishaw made clear recently to the Education Select Committee. A number of reports that have been referred to below, including Alan Millburn's, recommend that Ofsted in future formally inspects careers guidance in schools to ensure greater accountability.

**COMPLIED BY MONTROSE PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONSULTANTS,
AND PUBLISHED BY CAREERS ENGLAND, APRIL 2013**
www.careersengland.org.uk

MARCH 2012

Media

In March 2012 the local media was reporting on the closure of local Connexions Services and there was anticipation of the shift in responsibility for schools to secure access to 'independent and impartial careers guidance from September 2012'. From the outset most professionals involved in the sector thought statutory duty ill-defined, and coupled with a poorly drafted minimalist Statutory Guidance. The Association of Employment and Learning Providers (**AELP**) asks that **Ofsted inspect the quality of advice in schools** reflecting their concerns. Unions are also registering their concerns at job losses but also the reduced access to careers advice and guidance. Professor Tony Watts re-joins the debate in the TES flagging up the sectors anger over delays, while questioning the robustness of the guidance. This become a recurring theme as the sector worries that statutory guidance, in allowing schools to choose the type of careers advice they wish to access, risks a significant decline in face to face guidance available to pupils.

Political

Unions are also expressing their concerns, as Connexions partnership are closing down. Their main concern is over job losses but also the perceived loss of access to careers advice. **Careers England** also in March 2012 gives its backing statutory guidance: A PQ on 5 March reminded us that 'From September (2012), schools will be placed under a new duty to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance on the full range of 16 to 18 education and training options. This recognises that schools are best placed to make decisions based on the needs and circumstances of their pupils, working in partnership with expert careers providers as appropriate.' **The ICG** launches a campaign for more investment in career guidance.

Politicians are beginning to seek to address and respond to public concerns in the media. Further education minister **John Hayes said** (quoted by CYPN-27 March): "Schools will be expected to work in partnership with external and expert careers guidance providers, as appropriate, to ensure pupils get good advice on the full range of post-16 options. "The statutory guidance makes it clear that face-to-face careers guidance can benefit pupils, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to make informed choices and successful transitions."

ACTION ON CAREERS CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY INSTITUTE OF CAREER GUIDANCE

Wed, 7 Mar 2012

The Institute of Career Guidance (ICG) launches a UK-wide campaign tomorrow (8 March) calling for government and employers to invest in career guidance. The 'Action on Careers: making a difference' campaign's key objective is to ensure that everyone who needs access to expert career guidance should receive it – where they want it, when they want it and how they want it, according to an ICG announcement. Sarah Finnegan-Dehn, president of the Institute of Career Guidance, says: "The UK job market is complicated. So it is vital that people whatever their age and level of achievement can access guidance when they need it. "We support the government's creation of a National Careers Service in England. But in an era of austerity, rising unemployment and economic uncertainty, we must continue to invest in career guidance."

<http://www.recruiter.co.uk/action-on-careers-campaign-launched-by-institute-of-career-guidance/1013093.article>

CAREERS EDUCATION & GUIDANCE: MINISTER WELCOMES NATIONAL STANDARD AND AFFIRMS DUTY FOR SCHOOLS TO SECURE EXTERNAL SERVICE

Speaking at the opening of the new campus at Skelmersdale for the West Lancashire College last week (8th March), John Hayes MP, Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning said: "I am pleased to welcome the establishment of the **Quality in Careers Standard**. The standard will provide national validation of the quality awards

used by schools, colleges and work-based learning providers to demonstrate they are offering strong support to young people through careers education, information, advice and guidance. This is a really good example of an initiative which will help providers to do their best for all their learners." The Minister also invited Dame Ruth Silver, Chair of the Quality in Careers Consortium Board, and Paul Chubb - Careers England's Director who leads the QiCS project - to meet with him in his London office at the Department for Education to discuss progress with the project on Monday 12th March. At that meeting the Minister expressed his pleasure to hear that ten of England's Quality Awards for CEIAG had already committed to work towards the national validation. Assuring Dame Ruth and Paul that schools will be required to secure independent careers guidance from an external source, in addition to their in-house provision, the Minister made the following statement for publication: "The new statutory guidance to schools on Section 29 of the Education Act 2011 will underline the new legal duty on schools to secure independent and impartial careers advice and guidance. It will not be sufficient for schools to employ their own careers professional, good though they may be, and then rely on signposting to a website, excellent as that may be. Young people benefit from face-to-face careers guidance. As Lord Hill said in the House of Lords during the passage of the Education Bill, 'Pupils can benefit enormously from support offered in person that raises their aspirations and leads them onto a successful path'.

Speaking in Somerset on 13th March, at the second of the Institute of Career Guidance's series of conferences for schools, on commissioning careers guidance, Paul Chubb formally announced the Minister's statement and commented: "This statement is most timely as we await the promised Statutory Guidance. The Minister has been specific about what will be required to be sufficient to satisfy the new duty. In-house provision (critical as it is to enable young people to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to make decisions wisely about their future learning and work pathway) must be complemented by external support, including face-to-face guidance where appropriate.

The Quality in Careers Consortium Board acknowledges the changes to statutory duties affecting careers education and guidance arising out of the Education Act, 2011 which come into effect in September this year. Schools will then have a new duty to 'secure independent careers guidance' for their pupils and students. We believe that this will be most effective when these three things coexist in a school:

- 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 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 Careers Profession Alliance".

WHERE IS THE PROMISED CAREERS GUIDANCE? TES magazine on 16 March, 2012 By: Tony Watts

In July 2011, ministers promised to issue statutory guidance for schools to support them in fulfilling their new duty to secure independent careers guidance for their pupils. A hasty consultation took place in November/December for publication early in January. Yet the guidance has still not been issued. Meanwhile, schools have been setting budgets without any guidance. There is much confusion. Existing pronouncements suggest the duty can be met by indicating to pupils that they can use the forthcoming National Careers Service website and helpline - which, if true, makes the duty derisory and meaningless. Current reports indicate that existing provision for career guidance in many schools is being demolished. Connexions funding has disappeared; responsibility has been transferred to schools, but without funding and without the promised guidance. The delays in issuing it are inexcusable. The destructive effects of misconceived policies

are being exacerbated by ministerial incompetence. The damaging effects on many young people's lives will be incalculable.

FURTHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS URGE OFSTED TO SCRUTINISE CAREERS ADVICE

Wednesday 21 March 2012; CYPN

Ofsted must check that schools are offering impartial careers advice during inspections, apprenticeship providers have warned. From September, schools will have a legal duty to "secure access to independent and impartial" careers guidance for pupils under the Education Act 2011. The Association of Employment and Learning Providers (AELP) has asked the inspectorate to check that secondary schools are providing independent advice on the further education and training options available to students after their GCSEs. The call comes after further education minister John Hayes said schools will be expected to use external careers advice providers. In a statement following a meeting with the Quality in Careers Consortium Board and Careers England earlier this month, Hayes said: "The new statutory guidance to schools on Section 29 of the Education Act 2011 will underline the new legal duty on schools to secure independent and impartial careers advice and guidance. "It will not be sufficient for schools to employ their own careers professional, good though they may be, and then rely on signposting to a website, excellent as that may be. Young people benefit from face-to-face careers guidance." AELP said providers have also become increasingly concerned about the general availability of independent advice as Connexions services have lost funding across the country.

BAD CAREER MOVES PROVOKE UNISON

Morning Star; Tuesday 27 March 2012

Government guidance to schools on their new duties to advise young people about getting on the jobs ladder is too little, too late and lacks the necessary funding, the Unison union has warned. Ministers issued the statutory schools guidance on Monday before the launch of the national careers service later this week. It also preceded new legislation under the Education Act 2011, which will put legal obligations on schools to secure access to independent careers guidance for all 16-18 year-olds from this September. Unison, which represents school support staff, questioned the government's commitment to delivering a quality service as it had failed to secure the £200 million previously set aside to fund careers advice for young people. "The government is passing the buck without giving schools the time or the money necessary to help young people get onto the jobs ladder," said Unison head of education Jon Richards. "To make it worse the decimation of the Connexions service means that current careers advice is a shambles in many areas. Just when our young people need it most, hundreds of thousands across England will have either very limited, or even no access to 'face-to-face' career guidance. "The class of 2012 will be the least informed about their career options at a time when they need to know the most."

CONNEXIONS CONFIRMS IT IS GOING INTO ADMINISTRATION

Mar 7 2012, Crewe Chronicle

CONNEXIONS Cheshire and Warrington has confirmed this week that it will be going into administration. Current services to young people in Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester and Warrington will continue to be provided by the company until March 31. After this date the three local authorities will pick up the delivery of services in-house. The majority of existing Connexions staff will be employed by the councils directly to ensure continuity of support to young people. A spokesman for the three councils said: "It is always difficult when an organisation moves into administration but all three authorities are working closely together to secure services that are sustainable and good quality for young people." Administrators have been appointed and the three councils are working closely with them and the staff at Connexions to ensure a smooth transition to new arrangements.

GUIDANCE SPELLS OUT SCHOOL DUTY TO PROVIDE IMPARTIAL CAREERS ADVICE

Tuesday, 27 March 2012; CYPN

Schools have been warned that they must offer impartial and wide-ranging careers advice to pupils when they take over responsibility for the service in September.

[The Department for Education's statutory guidance on the duty in the Education Act 2011](#), states that schools need to provide pupils with a full range of post-16 education and training options, including apprenticeships. Advice must also "promote the best interests of the pupils" and ensure it is targeting schools' most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people. Schools are also expected to commission external independent careers advisers, either individually or in partnership with other schools. Further education minister John Hayes said: "Schools will be expected to work in partnership with external and expert careers guidance providers, as appropriate, to ensure pupils get good advice on the full range of post-16 options. "The statutory guidance makes it clear that face-to-face careers guidance can benefit pupils, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to make informed choices and successful transitions." Jon Richards, head of education at trade union Unison, said the guidance has come too late. "They have finally issued guidance to schools a few days before the launch of the new National Careers Service, and with little time for schools to commission careers services to start from this autumn," he said. "They are passing the buck without giving schools the time or the money necessary to help young people get onto the jobs ladder. "To make it worse the decimation of the Connexions service means that current careers advice is a shambles in many areas. Just when our young people need it most, hundreds of thousands across England will have either very limited, or even no access to face-to-face career guidance. "The class of 2012 will be the least informed about their career options at a time when they need to know the most."

Careers England believes the government guidance leaves too many loopholes for schools that are not committed to offering a comprehensive, independent careers advice service, describing the guidance as "dismal". A statement from the organisation said: "It effectively leaves it open for schools to decide not only what they want to do for their pupils in this area, but also whether they wish to do anything of substance at all."

[A survey released this week by the Association of Colleges](#) found that many schools with a sixth form are failing to offer advice about courses at rival further education colleges and schools.

APRIL 2012

Media

The National Careers Service is launched. Malmesbury School becomes the first school in Wiltshire to win the '**Career Mark**' CEIAG award for the standard of careers advice to its pupils (misreported in the press as a Government Award, which it is not). The UK Careers Profession Alliance (CPA) launches to raise professional standards and assure quality and public confidence in career development activities and services for young people and adults across the UK. The four associations in the CPA signed a formal Heads of Agreement on 30th April 2012. The East Grinstead Observer reports on the transition from the Connexions service, to a new 'on line service'.

The TES reports on the work of Future First supporting state schools old pupils' network, seeking to mimic private schools old boy network.

Political

The National Careers Service is launched. The Government publishes '**National Careers Service: The Right Advice at the Right Time**' on **5 April** setting out the strategy for information, advice and guidance for young people and adults in England. This confirmed the introduction of a new legal duty on schools to secure access to careers guidance, which subsequently came into force in September (2012). The DFE and BIS are working together to deliver this service. John Hayes said: "With competition for jobs more fierce than ever, now is the time to introduce a careers service that will deliver on its promise. "The National Careers Service, universally available to people at all stages of their careers*, has the very best interactive tools on its **website** and the highest-quality advisers, committed to the noble cause of helping others fulfil their aspirations. "Making available the right advice at the right time and in the right places is to strike a blow for

social mobility, social cohesion and social justice - a society that encourages people from wherever they start to journey to the destination of their dreams."

'NATIONAL CAREERS SERVICE: THE RIGHT ADVICE AT THE RIGHT TIME'

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/BISCore/further-education-skills/docs/N/12-677-national-careers-service-right-advice-right-time.pdf>

The National Careers Service is administered by the **Skills Funding Agency** who contract with 11 prime contractors for the delivery of face to face guidance and support.

*Young people aged between 18 and 24 who are on out of work benefits are a priority group for face to face guidance from the National Careers Service. Tim Loughton in a PQ on 23 April said: 'The 700,000 figure relates to the number of **face to face advice sessions** that the National Careers Service is able to give to adults aged 19 and over each year. This is set out in "The Right Advice at the Right Time", a policy document produced by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, summarising all that Government and its partners are doing to ensure young people and adults get the advice they need on education, training and work. The document can be accessed at: <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/further-education-skills/national-careers-service-for-england>

NATIONAL CAREERS SERVICE LAUNCHED BY TV CHEF

By Jamie Lawrence | April 11, 2012

The new National Careers Service will provide a range of advice, including information on apprenticeships. Model turned TV Chef Lorraine Pascale and Skills Minister John Hayes today launched a new service which aims to transform careers advice by combining trained advisers with an interactive website. Lorraine, who gave up modelling in search of a career with a more long-term future, is backing The National Careers Service, which will offer independent, impartial information and advice on learning and work. It will also give people access to a wide range of information about careers and the job market where they live.

The National Careers Service will:

- Handle up to one million telephone advice sessions and at least 20 million online sessions
- Provide information and advice for approximately 370,000 young people through the use of the helpline and website
- Offer face to face advice to 700,000 adults each year in a range of locations in local communities
- Operate to the recently enhanced matrix Standard, the national quality standard for the delivery of information, advice and guidance
- Provide detailed sector by sector labour market information so people can discover which industries are growing in their area
- Provide tools such as a CV builder and a Skills Health Check on the website to help people identify their skills strengths and gaps
- Allow people to open a Lifelong Learning Account, which gives them clear information and advice on skills, careers and financial support in a single, personalised online space.

<http://www.inspiresme.co.uk/news/staff-and-hr/national-careers-service-launched-by-tv-chef-lorra-013589/>

UK CAREERS PROFESSION ALLIANCE

The purpose of the UK Careers Profession Alliance is to raise professional standards and assure quality and public confidence in career development activities and services for young people and adults across the UK. The CPA has now developed, with support from the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (DBIS). A Register of Career Development Professionals to be launched on the 1st May 2012. The register will be open to all career development professionals, regardless of the sector in which they specialise. Those admitted to the Register will be recognised as practising at the highest levels of skill, knowledge and competence in the careers profession. Registration will be voluntary but will provide confidence and assurance of professional standing to the public and to employers, and will provide recognition within the career development

profession of their professional status. From 1st May 2012, career development professionals will be able to apply to join the register for a fee of £85.

For further information please contact

Sue Barr sue@suebarr.co.uk or Trevor Mason, ICG on trevormason@gmail.com

SCHOOL IS FIRST IN WILTSHIRE TO WIN AWARD FOR CAREERS ADVICE Thursday 26th April 2012 in the Wilts & Gloster Standard

Malmesbury School has become the first in Wiltshire to win the Career Mark award for the standard of careers advice to its pupils. The award follows an 18-month assessment culminating in a report that said the school had raised the profile of careers education among students and parents and made good use of outside organisations and extra-curricular activities as part of its programme. "Parents and students told us this was an area that they were concerned about and I am very pleased that we have been able to ensure that our students receive the very best advice and guidance," said head teacher Tim Gilson. Wiltshire Council backed the school through the process. "Schools are about to take on the statutory responsibility for providing careers advice and guidance so this is a good time for all secondary schools to consider how they can best provide that support," added children's services cabinet member Lionel Grundy.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

TES magazine on 20 April, 2012

Once the preserve of the elite, 'old-boy networks' are coming to state schools. The "Old-school-tie network" has long been portrayed as the reason for the privately educated scooping top jobs in industry, government and the media. Indeed, it is accepted by many that state-educated young people, bristling with qualifications but poorly connected, have to work twice as hard to penetrate the upper echelons of many sectors. The make-up of the shadow Cabinet serves as just one example - more than 50 per cent attended independent schools. But now a charity wants to turn things around by using technology to help state schools create alumni networks to match those at elite institutions such as Eton College, which has educated 19 British prime ministers, including David Cameron. Future First has just been awarded half a million pounds in grants to roll out its scheme to 500 schools around the country. The initiative combines a database with email, text and social networking websites to allow schools to keep in touch with ex-pupils. Schools can then contact alumni later in life and recruit them as pupil mentors or school governors and invite them to give careers talks or even become donors and fund-raisers. The scheme could also create networks to help pupils arrange work experience and work-shadowing opportunities - one of the ways privately educated and well-connected young people can get a leg-up in their careers. **Tony Watts**, visiting professor in career development at the University of Derby, said that the programme is "a terrific enhancement" for schools, but warned that it "could not be a substitute for a proper programme of careers guidance".

CAREERS ADVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE CLICK OF A MOUSE

Wednesday, April 25, 2012 East Grinstead Courier and Observer

FOLLOWING the closure of the Connexions office in East Grinstead, young people can now get careers advice online. West Sussex County Council's youth support and development service has made information available at www.yourspacewestsussex.co.uk It provides general careers advice, information on choosing courses at school, college or university, and on finding jobs and apprenticeships. Careers advice was previously provided to young people by the local authority, but the Government has changed the responsibility to schools and colleges to give information direct to their pupils. Guidance and support is also available from the council's information shops across West Sussex. The nearest are at 37 Queens Square, Crawley and 18 Church Road, Burgess Hill. Cabinet member for children and families Peter Evans explained: "Our information shops act as an access point for young people. They can get advice and support on health, relationships, housing and money all in a confidential setting. "Although the way careers advice is delivered is changing, our information shop advisors can help young people access the National Careers Service website. They can also use our telephones if they want to speak to one of the careers advisors direct." To find out more, visit the website and click on "careers and choices". A full list of information shops and the services they

offer is available. The Government has also launched the National Careers Service for adults and young people at www.direct.gov.uk/nationalcareersservice to help people assess their skills and identify job opportunities.

MAY 2012

Media

The quality of Careers advice and guidance has been a long standing concern. A Gold Award for CEIAG was reported in the local press. We see local stories of awards. The new National Council for Careers is launched on May 21st, chaired by Dr Deidre Hughes. It provides advice to government on strategy for the National Careers Service and allied career support services. A Register of Career Development Professionals launched on the **1st May 2012**

Political

Three e-petitions have been launched concerning worries over Careers Advice. One, below, dated May 2012, attracted just over 400 signatures. Another that had been sponsored in Feb 2012, by Paul Chubb, of Careers England, attracted over 4,000 signatures in support 'careers advice for young people'. Yet another 'Save face to face Careers advice for all young people' in November 2011 ,attracted 1300 signatures. Nick Gibb, the schools Minister, pushes the line that guidance points schools to 'face to face' guidance where it is suitable. The linkage between careers advice and Social mobility is now becoming more pronounced. **Alan Milburn's Policy paper Fair access to professional careers: a progress report** is published this month. Milburn recommended 'First, although schools will have a statutory duty to provide independent, impartial careers guidance for pupils aged 14-16 (and the Government is consulting on extending this to 13-18), there is still a question about whether schools will be able to do this effectively given that they have no additional funding. The Government must take all necessary steps to ensure that careers advice in schools does not miss the most disadvantaged pupils. Second, it is critical that access to independent careers guidance is extended to cover 13 year olds. Third, **Ofsted inspections of schools** must routinely consider the extent to which pupils understand the options and challenges facing them as they move on to the next stages of their education, training and employment. I will explore the issues of careers advice more fully in my report on higher education.'

On 9 May 2012, the Department for Education published a consultation on extending the duty to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance down to year 8 pupils and up to 16-18 year olds in schools and colleges from September 2013. (When DFE later responded to this consultation it agreed to this extension).

Nick Gibb in a PQ on 12 May said: 'The statutory guidance also places a clear **requirement on schools to secure face-to-face careers guidance for pupils where it is the most suitable support for young people, particularly those who have special educational needs, learning difficulties or disabilities**. Schools will be expected to work, as appropriate, with external and expert careers providers. The Government is working with the **Careers Profession Alliance** and other sector organisations to implement the recommendations of the Careers Profession Task Force. The 14 recommendations include the development of common professional standards, a code of ethics and initial training and continuing professional development to ensure careers advisers can carry out their role effectively, including when working with disabled young people.'

MILBURN REPORT

FAIR ACCESS TO PROFESSIONAL CAREERS

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fair-access-to-professional-careers-a-progress-report>

BROWNHILL STRIKES GOLD FOR CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE

Date published: 03 May 2012

Rochdale's Brownhill Learning Community (BLC) is celebrating after becoming the first school in the borough to achieve the Gold Award for the **careers education and**

guidance it provides for pupils. The **Inspiring IAG award** recognises the provision of good quality careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) in organisations that work with young people across Greater Manchester. Stella Oldham, Alternative Provisions Manager at BLC, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have achieved this award. The whole experience of doing this, from Bronze through to Silver and now Gold, has been beneficial to our school. It has given me more confidence which I am able to pass on to staff. "I've always felt strongly about the importance of careers education, information, advice and guidance but doing the award has raised the profile within the school and now many of the staff are keen to take part in continuing professional development opportunities in order to further enhance their skills and knowledge for the benefit of our pupils." Cheryl Eastwood, Executive Director for Children's Services at Rochdale Borough Council, welcomed the news: "It's fantastic that we have the borough's first school achieving this Gold Award. Providing good quality careers advice is the key to successful futures for our young people and to have formal recognition in this way builds confidence for everyone." The external Inspiring IAG assessor said in her summary: "It is evident that BLC is committed to supporting its pupils in their personal development and progression. The school offers an extremely nurturing environment where CEIAG is central to the ethos and staff support both pupils and parents and carers in raising their aspirations and achieving their goals."

<http://www.rochdaleonline.co.uk/news-features/49/school-news-articles/69347/brownhill-strikes-gold-for-careers-education-and-guidance>

MEDWAY –E PETITION

E-PETITION

Regulation of Independent Careers Advice

Responsible department: Department for Education

Research conducted by Medway Youth Parliament indicated that the level of advice on careers and post-16 options reaching students is, in our opinion, below satisfactory. We believe this is a significant issue that affects young people across the country. Cuts in school funding, coupled with the responsibility of delivering careers advice passing from local authority to schools in September, could exacerbate the problem. Since it is a statutory legal requirement for every student to receive independent advice, a minimum standard of 'good' advice must exist. We recommend that OFSTED ensure that all education providers supply independent advice of a 'good' level, or better. Our suggestion is that these checks are carried out when OFSTED undertake their routine inspections, therefore not increasing the workload of OFSTED inspectors dramatically and managing to limit cost. We hope you see the importance of this issue due to its obvious implications and that you sign our petition.

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/30859>

NEW NATIONAL COUNCIL TO RAISE STANDARDS OF CAREERS ADVICE

10 May

Skills Minister John Hayes has appointed careers expert Dr Deirdre Hughes OBE as the Chair of the new National Council for Careers. The council will be a driving force for excellence in careers guidance and will provide independent, expert advice to the Government on the future development of the National Careers Service which was launched at the beginning of April. Dr Deirdre Hughes has a wealth of experience in the careers guidance sector, she is a Commissioner and member of the Executive Board of Directors at the UK Commission for Employment & Skills (UKCES) and was recently awarded an OBE in the 2012 New Year Honours List for her services to careers guidance. She will be supported on the council by ten members who each have expertise in the sector.

<http://www.investinuk.net/news/new-national-council-raise-standards-careers-advice-12c3>

JUNE 2012

Media

The Milburn report makes waves. Tessa Stone of the Bridge Group in the Guardian makes clear the linkage between advice and guidance and social mobility agenda. Milburn's report also wants Ofsted to be responsible for looking closely at the guidance on offer in schools.

Political

Milburn's report brings social mobility agenda again, centre stage, and links good information advice and guidance to improving social mobility. A report, **Careers Guidance Lottery, from the London Observatory of Skills and Employment** finds there is a high degree of uncertainty as to whether the quality and quantity of provision will be the same after responsibility is passed from local authorities to schools as part of the changes set out in the 2011 Education Act. It recommends, inter alia, that Ofsted, in light of recent policy changes, that careers education and guidance be given increased importance in Ofsted's assessment of schools.

WITHOUT CAREERS ADVICE THERE IS NO FAIR ACCESS TO PROFESSIONAL CAREERS

Tessa Stone writing in The Guardian 7 June claims that The Milburn Report makes important observations, but forgets about information, advice and guidance - one of the largest holes in the social mobility pipeline. **The Milburn Report on Fair Access to Professional Careers** makes many important observations and recommendations for ways in which the professions should be opened up to ensure a more diverse workforce that supports social mobility. The report makes a strong case for why this is necessary, given the changing focus of the workforce towards professional roles. At the Bridge Group, we welcomed the report and its focus on ensuring that social mobility is embedded into the professional strategies to tackle any potential barriers to entry. In fact, our Professions Expert Group has been looking at ways to address these barriers throughout the past year. There is one crucial area that has been largely missing in the debate though. I was surprised to see that careers information, advice and guidance (IAG) in supporting access to the professions was not given greater prominence. This is increasingly one of the largest holes in the social mobility pipeline. There are potentially disastrous consequences if this lack of support is not dealt with quickly and effectively by the government. It is crucial that young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with no family history of higher education, have access to first class IAG about their options and how to navigate the minefield that is higher education and career progression. The professions and universities alike often argue that there is little they can do to counteract the impact of a student having studied the 'wrong' A-levels for the degree course or career that they wish to pursue down the road. This is particularly true for STEM-based (science, technology, engineering and maths) careers, which are one of the largest areas of potential growth for the UK economy.

Despite this, recent cuts have meant that many students are without any satisfactory service to provide them with this kind of assistance. The burden of responsibility has now been placed on schools to provide careers IAG. It is clear, however, that the parameters of this new statutory duty are far too narrow - 16-18 year olds are not yet covered by it, for example. With no additional funding, many schools will be unable to meet even the basic requirements. Alan Milburn originally recommended that £200m be transferred to schools from the previous Connexions budget to allow schools to tender for careers services a provider of their choice. This has not found its way to schools. Without a ring-fenced budget, and without much clearer guidance to schools on what good careers IAG provision looks like and how to provide it, the system will fail those who need it most.

MILBURN SAYS GOVERNMENT MUST RALLY MENTORS TO OPEN UP PROFESSIONS TO ALL YOUNG PEOPLE

CYPN; Wednesday 30 May 2012 reported that the government's adviser on social mobility has called for more mentors and role models to encourage children to take up the professions currently dominated by "the social elite". Alan Milburn said professions such as politics, medicine, law and journalism remain a "closed shop" to many young people and argued that little progress is being made to open these careers up to children from all backgrounds. In his report Fair Access to Professional Careers Milburn said to overcome these barriers the government must introduce a national scheme of career mentoring, whereby young professional and university students mentor students in years 9 to 13. He also recommended that the government start a national campaign headed by "inspirational role models" to encourage more young people to aspire to a professional career. In the forward to the report, Milburn said: "Overall, the government has shown good intentionality when it comes to trying to improve fair access to a professional career, even though it is making more progress in some areas than in others. "It needs to be more holistic in its approach and ensure that its efforts are better co-ordinated. Across the professions as a whole, the glass ceiling has been scratched but not broken. The professions still lag way behind the social curve." According to Milburn, each profession should recruit and support a network of ambassadors who would work with schools to raise awareness of career opportunities for young people. Milburn also recommended that social impact bonds are used as a way of leveraging state and private investment to deliver social mobility interventions and that Ofsted is made responsible for inspecting schools' performance on information, advice and guidance.

LONDON-OBSERVATORY-SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

19th June 2012

New Observatory research raises concerns on how schools will deliver careers guidance next term. A report launched in June by the Observatory finds that local authorities in London have concerns about how well prepared London schools are to offer careers guidance to young Londoners from September 2012. The report, **Careers Guidance Lottery**, finds there is a high degree of uncertainty as to whether the quality and quantity of provision will be the same after responsibility is passed from local authorities to schools as part of the changes set out in the 2011 Education Act.

http://lseo.org.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/LSEO_Careers_Guidance_report.pdf

JULY 2012

Media

Teachers are having doubts that school centred advice will be good enough. According to a survey conducted by TES and the Education and Employers Taskforce charity almost half of teachers believe the quality and quantity of careers advice on offer will deteriorate when the responsibility for providing guidance is passed to schools. Nearly 53 per cent of teachers do not feel confident giving advice about apprenticeships. In contrast, more than two-thirds said they were very or quite confident advising students about university study. The Daily Telegraph reports on 2 July that 'Under a new scheme launched on Monday, scores of leading employers including the BBC and the NHS will call for volunteers across the country to visit a school near them once a year and spend an hour talking with young people about their job. The *Inspiring the Future* campaign, thought up by the charity Education and Employers Taskforce, is designed to tackle the "skills mismatch" between jobs and young people, and inspire schoolchildren to pursue careers they would not have otherwise thought of.'

Political

The government is under considerable pressure over its statutory guidance which is regarded by many professionals as weak, so it issues a complementary guide 'Securing independent careers guidance: A practical guide for schools which they advised schools' to read in conjunction with the Statutory guidance.

SECURING INDEPENDENT CAREERS GUIDANCE

18 July 2012

John Hayes, Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, has introduced *Securing independent careers guidance: A practical guide for schools*. This should be read in conjunction with *Statutory guidance for schools: Careers guidance*. The purpose of this new guide is to offer practical information that schools may wish to draw on when interpreting their new duty to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance. This comes into force in September 2012. Dr Deirdre Hughes OBE, Chair of the National Careers Council and Commissioner, UK Commission for Employment and Skills said: This 'Practical Guide for Schools' is essential reading for those involved in the strategic and operational planning and delivery of careers work in schools. It offers examples of good and interesting policies and practices, and it also addresses the fundamental requirement for schools' staff to know how and where they can seek out high quality careers professionals and careers resources. Brian Lightman, General Secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders said: Within the context of the current economic situation and the emphasis on improving social equality, it is more important than ever for young people to have access to high quality, independent careers guidance. In the context of recent changes to the careers service, this practical guide is welcome and will be very useful in helping schools to understand their new statutory responsibilities. ASCL commends it to school leaders and careers coordinators.

[Securing independent careers guidance: A practical guide for schools](#)

WORKERS URGED TO VOLUNTEER CAREERS ADVICE IN SCHOOLS

Daily Telegraph 2 July 2012 reported that Millions of workers are being urged to visit state secondary schools and talk about their jobs and career history in a drive to help young people gain better insight into the world of work.

CAREERS ADVICE PLAN GETS VOTE OF LITTLE CONFIDENCE

TES magazine on 6 July, 2012 reported on a new survey, carried out by TES and the Education and Employers Taskforce charity, also found that nearly 53 per cent of teachers do not feel confident giving advice about apprenticeships. In contrast, more than two-thirds said they were very or quite confident advising students about university study. The survey of almost 1,000 teachers and school leaders revealed major uncertainty in schools about the changes to careers information, advice and guidance (IAG). From September, schools will be responsible for providing "independent and impartial" assistance to students, which must include information on the full range of post-16 options, including apprenticeships and other vocational courses. But 62 per cent of school leaders surveyed said they still had no firm plans for offering IAG to students. There is also some scepticism about whether the new system will actually lead to an improvement in careers advice. While 31 per cent of teachers said it would increase the quality and quantity of provision, 47 per cent argued that this would actually be reduced. A spokesman for the Association of Employment and Learning Providers has called on Ofsted to inspect the quality of schools' provision. "These results are in no way surprising," the spokesman said. "Many teachers do not feel confident talking about vocational options. We are worried that schools won't comply with (the new duty). The obvious tool for checking on this would be for it to be inspected by Ofsted."

AUGUST 2012

Media

The transition to the new careers advice and guidance regime presents local challenges. West Sussex busy rebranding its services. A 'Which' Survey reported in CYPN, confirms concerns over a shortfall in Careers advice with more than a third of under 19-year-olds saying they received no one-to-one advice from a teacher or careers adviser when choosing whether or not to pursue higher education. TES reports that pupils may be

opting for subjects they perceive as 'soft' which could in turn harm their career prospects.

Political

An NFER report finds that pupils are only getting patchy advice at school in STEM shortage subjects.

COMPETITION TO HELP REBRAND YOUTH ADVICE SERVICE

The West Sussex County Times reported on Wednesday 1 August 2012 that a competition has been launched to find a new name for West Sussex County Council's Information, Advice and Guidance services for young people. Due to national changes on how careers advice and guidance is delivered, the West Sussex Youth Support and Development Service has decided to rebrand its Information, Advice and Guidance services. The changes mean that schools now have the responsibility for giving careers advice to the majority of young people. This service was previously delivered in West Sussex under the Connexions branding – this is now being phased out nationally. West Sussex currently has Information Shops for Young People, Connexions Centres, and Connexions Personal Advisors. The competition is to come up with a new name for this service, to bring them under one title which can be easily recognised by young people, parents and professionals. www.yourspacewestsussex.org.uk/branding

WHICH? SURVEY FINDS ONE THIRD OF YOUNG PEOPLE MISS OUT ON ONE-TO-ONE ADVICE

Monday 13 August 2012 CYPN reported that More than a third of under 19-year-olds received no one-to-one advice from a teacher or careers adviser when choosing whether or not to pursue higher education, a survey by the consumer group Which? has found. The Which? research found that 39 per cent of prospective students had no access to one-to-one advice, whilst a further 43 per cent of young people would have liked more information, particularly about their employment prospects and the types of courses available to them. Extrapolated based on the number of under 19-year-olds who go to university annually, Which? estimated that more than 150,000 prospective students each year are making one of the biggest financial decisions of their lives without vital information.

Peter Vicary-Smith, chief executive of Which?, described the number of young people missing out on information, advice and guidance as "worrying". "This has huge implications for their future and finances, so it's vital that they choose the right course and university for them," he said. "Young people are taking out huge loans to pay for university, so they should seek independent advice as anyone would when making such an important financial decision, especially in the current financial climate. "As the government devolves responsibility for careers advice to schools, head teachers must ensure that young people are getting the advice they need." The consumer rights group is launching a free website in partnership with the National Union of Students (NUS) this September, which will provide information on university options to teachers, careers advisers, parents and young people.

Liam Burns, NUS president, said the website would attempt to provide both comprehensive and easy to access information. He explained: "As universities are increasingly competing with each other in a market and therefore cannot provide the impartial resources prospective applicants need, and as the government will not do so, we look forward to working with Which?."

PUPILS' CHOICES 'INFLUENCED BY EASE OF SUBJECTS'

TES Newspaper on 19 August, 2011 reported that Pupils are choosing their A-levels according to how easy they think subjects are, a poll of teachers has found. More than a quarter (26 per cent) of teachers believed their students' perceptions about the difficulty of different A-levels influenced their choice of exams to "a great extent" and another 59 per cent "to some extent". The findings from a representative sample of more than 900 state secondary teachers will fuel fears that maintained school pupils are missing out on top university places by opting for "soft" subjects. The latest poll, conducted by the

National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) for exam board AQA, shows that almost two-thirds (65 per cent) of teachers agree that **pupils who receive "high-quality" careers advice are more likely to consider taking subjects perceived as difficult**. The finding comes a week after a panel of Government advisers warned that the "foolhardy" "destruction" of the **country's careers service** risked damaging young people's lives and the economy.

NFER REPORT

"Patchy" schools' careers provision is hindering efforts to significantly raise pupil interest in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), Government-commissioned research has found. The National Foundation for Educational Research report found that heads and deputies did not always prioritise STEM careers information and guidance. There was "patchy careers provision in schools alongside a small careers workforce", it said. The research suggested that including careers in the curriculum "could well provide the impetus for teachers to engage". But a Government programme designed to co-ordinate the work of organisations supporting STEM had seen awareness and knowledge of the subjects increasing over its three-year lifetime, it added.

NFER- THE STEM COHESION PROGRAMME: FINAL REPORT

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DFE-RR147.pdf>

SEPTEMBER 2012

Media

CYPN gives prominence to the Work Foundation report which says the government changes risk compromising quality and access while storing up problems for the future.

Political

This is the month when the new schools based guidance starts. The Career Development Institute is established, the successor body to a number of existing professional associations, including the Institute of Careers Guidance. This new association is important because membership of it is a requirement of registration on the Careers Profession Alliance register of guidance practitioners. And it is this register which the Government will recommend that schools use when contracting with an external guidance professional. Changes to careers guidance coming into effect this month as part of the Education Act risk severely compromising the quality and availability of support for young people, and could exacerbate the problems they face when first entering the labour market, according to a report published this month **by the Work Foundation**. The report adds that the lack of clarity around the new responsibilities means schools may be able to fulfil their legal obligations by referring pupils to the National Careers Service, with the result that under-19s could be left unable to access face-to-face advice – 'a crucial element for personalised and effective support' according to the Work Foundation. The report calls on the government **to rethink its plans for the careers service**. The Work Foundation says that it believes renewed focus on work experience, work related activities, mentoring, along with subsidies for universal face-to-face provision are necessary, together with careers education embedded in the curriculum as early as primary school. **John Hayes MP**, the affable FE Minister, soon to be replaced this month (i.e. September) by **Matthew Hancock MP** claims under questioning from **Simon Hughes MP**, who has a brief to help improve access, that he is co-ordinating moves across departments to ensure there is good guidance in schools. Hancock in his first contribution on 7 September since taking over the reins describes what is on offer from the National Careers Service including face to face advice <http://www.careermark.co.uk/news/career-development-institute-and-careers-profession-register/>

CAREERS EDUCATION CHANGES 'RISK INCREASING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT'

CYPN reported on Friday 07 September 2012 that the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) is likely to increase as a result of

government changes to careers education, it has been claimed. A report by think-tank the Work Foundation warned that changes to careers guidance coming into effect this week risk compromising both the quality and availability of support for young people. This will exacerbate the problems young people face when first entering the labour market, and could leave young people at greater risk of becoming NEET, it said. As a result of the changes, local authorities are no longer required to provide a universal careers service. Instead, schools must provide independent, impartial advice, but have been given no extra funding to do so. The Work Foundation said that a lack of clarity around the new responsibilities means schools may be able to fulfil their obligations by simply referring young people to the National Careers Service. Lizzie Crowley, report co-author, said: "The government's cuts to careers services are storing up much bigger problems for the future. These changes could see growing numbers of young people left without the support they need to effectively navigate their way into the labour market. "This is short-termist thinking that will ultimately place a greater burden on the economy as rising numbers of young people find themselves not in education, employment or training." The report calls on government to make sure careers education is contained in the curriculum as early as primary school and to subsidise costs to ensure universal face-to-face provision for 13- to 19-year-olds. It also says there should be effective regulation of careers services and the construction of partnerships between schools, careers service providers and employers. Shaks Ghosh, chief executive of the Private Equity Foundation, said opportunities for young people are becoming increasingly difficult to access. "A shocking 450,000 NEETs have yet to get a foot on the job ladder and make the move from learning into work, outside casual or holiday jobs," she added. "Yet we know from our own experience that one-to-one long-term support works for even those most at risk of dropping out. "Involving key players such as employers and the third sector will help to create a more rounded system of support and build bridges between school and the world of work." The Department for Education has been contacted for comment.

WORK FOUNDATION-RAISING ASPIRATIONS AND SMOOTHING TRANSITIONS 5 September 2012

School-to-work transitions are increasingly challenging for young people. Together Careers Education and Careers Guidance can improve transitions and minimise the risk of young people becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training). This report examines changes to services coming into effect as part of the Education Act, and concludes that they are likely to severely compromise the quality, and availability, of provision. Drawing on an evaluation of the previous Connexions service, it sets out a plan for ensuring young people receive the careers support they need.

http://www.theworkfoundation.com/DownloadPublication/Report/320_Careers%20Education%20and%20Careers%20Guidance%20FINAL.pdf

PQ 3 SEPTEMBER ORAL

Andrew Stephenson (Pendle) (Con): My right hon. Friend will know that schools will shortly have a duty to provide comprehensive and independent careers advice to their pupils. What support will he provide to schools to ensure that that they meet these important new obligations?

The Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning (Mr John Hayes): My hon. Friend will know that this Government take careers advice very seriously, which is why we established the National Careers Service. He will also know that we have not only changed the law, ensuring that schools secure independent advice and guidance, but introduced statutory guidance for schools and, furthermore, a practical guide to how they should go about it. This is a record that we can be proud of and that the whole House should enjoy.

Mr Barry Sheerman (Huddersfield) (Lab/Co-op): May I remind the Minister that there is nothing amusing about the 1 million young people who are unemployed? Is it not a fact that the lack of leadership and imagination in our schools and in the leadership of this country means that those people are languishing with little hope? Can we not use unemployed graduates, **working with NEETs**, to make something happen and make it happen soon?

Mr Hayes: The hon. Gentleman is right that this is not a matter for levity, but he is also wise enough to acknowledge, I hope, that it is a structural problem. The number of young people not in education, employment or training began to rise, as he knows, long before the current economic challenges. It requires a structural solution and at the heart of that is building the skills people need to get and to keep jobs, which is precisely what this Government are doing.

Simon Hughes (Bermondsey and Old Southwark) (LD): The Minister has been good at understanding that we need good careers guidance for young people, but if we are to have fewer people out of work and doing nothing at all post-16, high-quality work experience for all young people must be delivered in every school and college. Will colleagues in the Department for Education work with colleagues in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to ensure that such a programme is in place very soon?

Mr Hayes: I am the personification of the relationship between the two Departments to which the right hon. Gentleman refers. It is essential that our strategy for growth and our approach to business work in tandem with what we do in schools. Although he cannot welcome it, as he has already asked his question, I am sure that he will want at least to contemplate the excellent advice to schools on this very subject that I issued just before the summer recess.

PQ 7 SEPTEMBER VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress his Department has made in improving access to high quality careers advice and guidance. [119865]

Matthew Hancock: In April 2012 the Government launched the National Careers Service. The new service offers information, advice and guidance through three easily accessible routes: a single free phone telephone helpline service, including web chat and text message; face to face guidance in the community for adults aged 19 and over (or 18 if on out of work benefits); and a website with details of how to access the other two channels. The face to face service currently operates from over 3,250 locations where it is co-located with other organisations, including 198 further education colleges. Following trials to enhance the co-location of the National Careers Service with Jobcentres we have increased the number of jobcentre offices with a careers adviser presence to 557 (95%). All Jobcentres will provide access for their claimants to the National Careers Service through telephone and web, where advisers cannot be available, by the end of September 2012.

OCTOBER 2012

Media

Evidence of a local partnership approach to local careers guidance developing, in Boreham Wood, reported in the local paper. The Bradford Telegraph and Argus report on the Education Select Committees visit and quotes Graham Stuart the Committee Chair. And the Bradford East MP David Ward who says "It's obviously crucial that we get young people into employment and if we can support that through improving the information and guidance they receive then that can only be a good thing."

Political

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has launched on 4 October a brand new careers education resource for primary school children in England: Equal Choices, Equal Chances. Developed by the Commission, together with a panel of education and careers experts, and tested in primary schools, the free toolkit for Key Stage 2 teachers helps to challenge any stereotypical ideas which pupils may already have started to form around the world of work. Ruth Silver steps down as Chair of Quality in Careers Consortium Board to be replaced by Dr Barrie Hopson.

Liberal Democrat MP, Gordon Birtwistle, seeks to introduce a Bill (under the Ten Minute Rule) -Careers Advice in Schools for 12-16 year olds; 23 October. It receives its First Reading but does not progress to a Second Reading.

COMMISSION LAUNCHES FREE CAREERS EDUCATION RESOURCE FOR SCHOOLS 4 October 2012

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has launched a brand **new careers education resource for primary school children in England: Equal Choices, Equal Chances**. Developed by the Commission, together with a panel of education and careers experts, and tested in primary schools, the free toolkit for Key Stage 2 teachers helps to challenge any stereotypical ideas which pupils may already have started to form around the world of work. Commission research¹ shows that formal careers advice needs to start in Primary School and the Commission hopes that this resource will help to show pupils the varied possibilities the world of work has to offer, whilst making it clear that race, gender, faith or disability need not limit their choice of career. The toolkit is made up of five learning areas each of which contains flexible activities which can be used to create whole lessons or slotted into existing lesson plans. The toolkit also contains an inspirational video called Pass it On and engaging multimedia assets including vox-pop videos and audio recordings to help capture pupils' attention. Careers education can provide an excellent opportunity for schools to develop relationships with local businesses and organisations and Equal Choices, Equal Chances provides a comprehensive guide on how to involve local organisations in careers education. It will also help schools to deliver effective careers and work-related education as part of their PSHE curriculum, and supports achievement of the ACEG (Association of Careers Education and Guidance) learning outcomes for Key Stage 2 introduced in April this year as part of the new framework for careers and work-related education for 7-19 year olds. Hilary Bills, Past President, National Union of Teachers, said 'This resource is a must for all Year 5 and 6 teachers.'

www.equalityhumanrights.com/equalchoices

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2012/october/commission-launches-free-careers-education-resource-for-primary-school-children/>

CAREERS ENGLAND- PRESS NOTICE 28TH SEPTEMBER 2012

"DR. BARRIE HOPSON TO SUCCEED DAME RUTH SILVER AS CHAIR OF THE QUALITY IN CAREERS CONSORTIUM BOARD:

"The Quality in Careers Standard is a beacon of hope for Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance (CEIAG)", so says Dame Ruth Silver, Founding Chair of the Quality in Careers

Consortium. As she hands over the position of Chair of the Consortium Board to Dr. Barrie Hopson, Dame Ruth Silver reflects on the progress made in establishing the Quality in Careers Standard as the over-arching national validation for England's CEIAG Quality Awards: "Back in the 1990s a number of Quality Awards for CEIAG were developed as changes were made to the way careers guidance was delivered in England with the removal of the statutory duty from Local Education Authorities (in 1994) and the privatisation through competitive tendering of the Careers Service. Some of the new Awards were developed by LEAs themselves, others by the new careers companies. What they all sought to do was to raise the standard of CEIAG amongst England's schools and colleges. Some work-based learning providers also saw the benefits of seeking such an Award".

For Full Release see

<http://www.careersengland.org.uk/documents/Public/28.9.12%20press%20notice.pdf>

FREE CAREERS ADVICE FOR THE YOUNG AND UNEMPLOYED

The Borehamwood and Elstree Times on Monday 1st October 2012 reported that Unemployed teenagers are being offered help in finding work with 'personal MOT' sessions. Counselling charity Signpost, in Shenley Road, has teamed up with Youth Connexions and the Citizens Advice Bureau, (CAB) to give the young and unemployed careers advice. William Allen, manager at Signpost, said: "Lack of qualifications and work opportunities lead to loss of motivation and debt, which leads to stress and anxiety. "We are offering young people to have the chance of a personal MOT, to give young people the support they need." Drop in sessions are being held, where people will be given free advice in one on one session's all through October. Staff from the CAB, Youth Connexions and Signpost will all be on hand to offer advice and support. Mr Allen added: "Youth Connexions can help with advice on training and careers, the citizen's advice

bureau can help with housing and debt problems. "Signpost can also help deal with the stress and anxiety young people might be facing as a result of being unemployed." People can turn up to the sessions, which are being supported by Affinity Sutton housing association, on October 6 and December 1 in Leeming Road, from 11am to 1pm. A session will also be held on November 3 in the Worknet Centre, Shenley Road from 11am to 1pm.

CAREERS ADVICE IN SCHOOLS FOR 12-16 YEAR OLDS BILL; 23 OCTOBER

Motion for leave to bring in a Bill (Standing Order No. 23) under the Ten Minute Rule

Gordon Birtwistle (Burnley) (LD): I beg to move, that leave be given to bring in a Bill to require schools, together with local businesses and other sectors, to provide a comprehensive careers advice service to 12 to 16 year olds; and for connected purposes. Over the past few years, I have discussed with businesses in Burnley future career paths for young people starting work with them. We have a serious skills gap in this country. I have looked at four major industries—the aerospace industry, the automotive industry, the green industries and the oil and gas industry, along with the chemical industry—which have advised me that they and their supply chains face a serious skills gap, not only now, but in the future. I have looked into this issue with regard to the careers advice given in schools. There is a serious lack of careers advice given to 12 to 16-year-olds in most secondary schools. Up to now, there has been no comprehensive package to ensure every student is taught about the local employment and training opportunities from an early age so that they can see how their school studies directly correspond to the needs of local employers. Most careers advice is delivered by teachers with little or no experience outside teaching. They do it voluntarily and with some vigour, but they do not really understand the businesses in their local areas.

Careers advice is not given enough importance in schools, and there are few if any links with local employers. Local professionals do not visit schools, and time is limited for visits by students to local businesses. Careers advice is given too late to students, when they are about to leave school, but it should be given to young people from the age of 12 onwards. They do not need to make a decision then, but they need to know what careers will be available when they leave school. I am presently doing an Industry and Parliament Trust course with Total Oil, which has told me that it has more than 1,000 vacancies in the UK. I have been round lots of schools in Burnley and mentioned this to the young people, and not one has ever been advised about careers in the oil industry and, in particular, with Total. Employers are also unsure what skills the future work force will have. They receive applications from students who clearly do not understand the industry in which they are applying to work. Students are unaware of the skills that they will need to carry out jobs in specific industries. They do not know what careers are available in other areas and have information given to them by teachers who have only the skills of the teaching profession. This has led to high youth unemployment, when there are many vacancies in industry. I accept that the Government are doing a vast amount of work on encouraging young people to go into apprenticeships, and I support that wholeheartedly. In time, that will probably help to resolve some of these problems. But at the moment the careers advice being given in schools is not pointing young people to the careers available when they leave school. I have a local company in my constituency called Aircelle. It is the biggest local employer, with more than 1,000 employees and a turnover of £100 million. It makes high-tech thrust reversers for the Rolls-Royce jet engines. Over the next two years, it has to increase its turnover to £250 million, but it is being held back by a lack of skilled people. It is suffering from a skills shortage, as is its supply chain. The company held an Aircelle inspiration day and invited 600 young people from various schools in Burnley to go and see how a jet engine thrust reverser is manufactured. Before they went, not one child understood where they were going, but when they left every one of them was amazed by what an engineering career involved. I hope that a lot of those young people will be inspired by that.

I would like each school to have a dedicated member of staff who is qualified and experienced in providing careers advice. I accept that not every school could fund a full-time careers post, but there is no reason why four or five schools could not get together and employ a qualified careers adviser. I do not doubt that budgets are tight, but

schools now have extra budgets and the pupil premium, which they can invest in this advice. That is extremely important for young people leaving school and starting a career. Vocational courses and apprenticeships should be pushed more. Careers advisers should be able to explain what apprenticeships are available. As I have said, there is the oil industry, the chemical industry, the aerospace industry, the automotive industry and so on. These are the businesses of the future and the businesses that this country does well in, but they are also the businesses that are being held back in this country by a lack of skills, not only in the capital companies, such as Rolls-Royce and Total, but in the supply chains that work for these companies and deliver the product. At the moment, we import more products in order to keep these businesses going than those businesses export in finished products. So we need to cut those imports, and we can do that if we have the people to do the jobs.

I would like Ofsted reports to take into account the work that schools are doing on careers advice. A lady in Burnley, Lesley Burrows, has started a company called Positive Footprints and set up a virtual and a visual jobcentre in a secondary school. The young people, when entering the school, have to go through this jobcentre. All over the walls of the entrance, she shows what jobs and careers are available. On the walls are shown actual jobs, and she stands there at her own expense, because the local county council will not fund her, which is absolutely ridiculous given what it would cost. She stands there, and if a particular student, whether 12, 13, 14, 15 or 16, wishes to find out more about careers, they can go to her and say, "I've seen a job on that wall. What is this industry? Please tell me, because I might like to do it. I might want to take GCSEs that make that possible." I recommend that the Minister look into what this lady is doing. I am delighted to put the Bill before the House. I hope it has the House's full support and that we can create a school curriculum that includes a careers advice service—perhaps linking schools together and delivering it in partnership—that delivers the young people we need into the industries that we need. I do not want young people leaving school thinking, "Goodness me. I wish I'd done that, but I never knew about it." That is the most important thing. Young people need to know what is available, rather than being told what might be available the day they walk out the school gates to find a job.

Question put and agreed to. Ordered, That Gordon Birtwistle, John Man, Jake Berry, Jason McCartney, Ian Swales, Stephen Lloyd and Ms Gisela Stuart present the Bill Gordon Birtwistle accordingly presented the Bill.

Bill read the First time; to be read a Second time on Friday 30 November 2012, and to be printed (Bill 79). The Bill was not moved for debate on 30 November 2012. The order to read the Bill a second time lapsed. There is no indication when the Bill will progress further.

Note The Ten Minute Rule, also known as Standing Order No. 23, is a procedure for the introduction of Private Member's Bills. It is one of the ways in which a bill may receive its first reading. It is the means by which a backbench MP can introduce a Bill to the Commons. However before you get too excited about it-Bills introduced under the Ten Minute Rule rarely progress much further. The Government has its own programme for legislation to push through and is always short of time and these Bills are almost always crowded out. The Government opposes Private Member's Bills in the later stages and, given their low priority in the schedule, there is often insufficient time for the debate to be completed. Ten Minute Rule introductions are essentially used to stimulate publicity for a cause, i.e. Careers advice in schools, especially as the debate follows the media- focused question time and is usually broadcast live on BBC Parliament.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121023/debtext/121023-0002.htm#12102347000002>

EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE VISITS CITY

The Bradford Telegraph and Argus reported on Wednesday 24th October 2012 that an influential group of MPs visited Bradford as it unveiled an inquiry into career guidance and advice services. The Education Select Committee was in the district yesterday at the beginning of its inquiry, after Bradford East MP David Ward, a member of the committee, advised the group of what was happening in the city. The group met with head teachers and Bradford Council and visited Bradford College and Bradford

Chamber of Commerce, along with a range of employers, as they investigated the guidance and advice offered to young people looking to move into work after education. Committee chairman Graham Stuart said the committee heard from employers who felt students were leaving school lacking the "basic skills" required, while students were being sent on courses which did not take them into the line of work they wished for. He said: "Local employers are frustrated at the fact that young people are not given the basic skills which employers say are required to be able to hit the ground running when young people come for a job, whether as an apprentice or in other roles. "So they think there's an insufficient emphasis on a number of qualities – punctuality, basic literacy and numeracy, personal presentation and social skills." Bradford East MP David Ward said: "It's obviously crucial that we get young people into employment and if we can support that through improving the information and guidance they receive then that can only be a good thing."

NOVEMBER 2012

Media

Coverage by the BBC and others of the **Careers England survey**. It finds, inter alia, that Careers advice has been reduced in more than eight out of 10 schools in England in the past year. 'Research carried out by the Pearson Think Tank and Careers England suggests real concerns about the quality and scope of advice in schools. In short the failure to provide extra funding has led to a drop in the quality of provision. The Pearson study found that out of more than 700 teachers in schools, sixth-form and FE colleges, 63 per cent said they worried "a lot" or "sometimes" about careers guidance, while 31 per cent felt the quality of advice available was not adequate.

Political

Karen Buck MP, Labour's Shadow Minister for Young People, commenting on 21 November ahead of a **Careers England Survey** (which showed a decline in careers advice services in schools) said: "This research confirms what we have been hearing from schools and colleges across the country - that many are struggling to maintain a quality offer of careers advice and guidance because of the changes brought in by this Government, with reduced financial support from September. "Students and employers will be the losers as young people face being left with reduced ability to choose the best options for qualifications, training and work. The Government must act fast to prevent this becoming yet another shambles."

The DFE responding the Careers England Survey on 23 November said: "Young people need good quality careers advice - but the sad fact is that too much provision has been poor quality and patchy. We have introduced a new legal duty on schools to secure independent and impartial careers guidance for their pupils. They know their students best, so it is right that they should decide what provision is right for them and that they have complete control over their budgets to buy in the support they need."

Matthew Hancock MP (PUSS –DFE) who was given responsibility for Careers when John Hayes MP moved job, gave evidence to the Select Committee in his first appearance on 28 November. In it he appeared to question /challenge the findings of the recent Careers England Survey. The minister said he rejected the finding that 83.5 per cent of schools had reduced the careers advice they offered, since September because the survey had included only members of Careers England, . He memorably said "However, the idea that you only get careers advice from a professional careers adviser is wrong. All of us in this room and everybody gets careers advice from all over the place." His comment was not well received by the profession.

Lord Hill answering a PQ on 21 November says "Schools are subject to a new duty to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance on the full range of 16-18 education and training options, including apprenticeships. This is underpinned by statutory guidance and a practical guide, published by the Department for Education. Ofsted is carrying out a thematic review of careers guidance, reporting in July 2013, which will highlight good practice and provide a benchmark for future improvements in

the quality of provision. Schools are expected to work in partnership, as appropriate, with external and expert careers providers'. Lord Hill agrees in the Lords on 26 November with Lord Roberts "about the importance of good careers guidance. He will know that the Government have made a change by placing a duty on schools and colleges to make sure that young people have good-quality careers advice." Lord Hill wants more employers in the classroom talking to young people.

<http://www.careersengland.org.uk/documents/public/CE%20school%20survey%20REPO-RT%2020.11.12%20for%20publication%200930%2021.11.12.pdf>

CAREERS 2020

2 November 2012

iCeGS and the Pearson Think Tank have just published a report called '**Careers 2020: Options for future careers work in English schools**'. The report highlights worrying international evidence from other countries including the Netherlands and New Zealand, which witnessed a decline in both the extent and quality of careers work when responsibility and the associated funding was transferred to schools. New survey data published today finds that the majority (61%) of teachers and lecturers are worried about the careers service being offered to children leaving school. Commissioned by the Pearson Think Tank, the research also found that nearly a third (31%) of teachers were specifically worried about the quality of advice being provided, commonly citing the closure of services such as Connexions as a factor contributing to their concerns. The release of these findings coincides with the publication of the Careers 2020 report by The Pearson Think Tank and The International Centre for Guidance Studies (iCeGS) at the University of Derby. The report highlights worrying international evidence from other countries including the Netherlands and New Zealand, which witnessed a decline in both the extent and quality of careers work when responsibility and the associated funding was transferred to schools. Last year's Education Act introduced this new responsibility for all schools in England for the first time but transferred none of the funding. The report recommends that the implementation of reforms such as the new Statutory Duty and the National Careers Service are carefully monitored and for schools to embed careers work across everything they do, including the curriculum. The Careers 2020 report includes a 'menu of activities' for teachers to plan their school-wide approach to careers.

Download the full report (below), the summary version, the background research or the press release.

<http://thepearsonthinktank.com/2012/careers-2020-options-for-future-careers-work-in-english-schools/>

MOST SCHOOLS 'HAVE REDUCED CAREERS ADVICE'

By Hannah Richardson; BBC News education reporter 23 November 2012

Careers advice has been reduced in more than eight out of 10 schools in England in the past year, research suggests. A survey of professional careers advisers working in 1,500 secondary schools reveals "dramatic reductions" in the amount of professional careers guidance on offer. Schools took over the duty to secure independent careers guidance for their pupils from September 2012. The government says schools should decide what was right for them. The Careers England research was undertaken because of widespread fears about the impact of the change brought about by the Education Act 2011 in England. Previously local authorities provided careers services to schools mainly through local Connexions Service.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-20452398>

TWO-THIRDS OF TEACHERS FEAR FOR CAREERS ADVICE QUALITY

FE news; TES magazine reported on 2 November, 2012 that in September, the responsibility for providing careers information to students was transferred from local authorities to individual schools. But while schools now have to offer impartial advice about post-16 options, including FE, research carried out by the Pearson Think Tank suggests that the failure to provide extra funding has led to a drop in the quality of provision. Out of more than 700 teachers in schools, sixth-form and FE colleges, 63 per cent said they worried "a lot" or "sometimes" about careers guidance, while 31 per cent felt the quality of advice available was not adequate. Teachers blamed this on

Connexions funding being slashed and advisers not being in tune with developments in the labour market. "With record youth unemployment rates and uncertainty about whether schools can provide good quality careers support, it's not surprising that most teachers are worried about the careers advice available to pupils," said Louis Coiffait, head of research at the think-tank. "High-quality education provision and careers advice are prerequisites for a socially mobile society, so failure to get it right now will impact most harshly on some of our most disadvantaged communities for years to come." Brian Lightman, general secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders, said the data are backed up by anecdotal reports from his union's members.

CAREERS ENGLAND SURVEY OF SCHOOLS AND CAREERS GUIDANCE DUTY November 2012

Careers England survey of schools and careers guidance duty published today: "Too much left to chance" survey reveals...

Read the full press notice [here](#) and the full survey [here](#)

PQ 21 NOVEMBER EDUCATION: CAREERS ADVICE

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are monitoring changes to the National Careers Service; and what steps they are taking to ensure that the quality of advice to young people is improved

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): Schools are subject to a new duty to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance on the full range of 16-18 education and training options, including apprenticeships. This is underpinned by statutory guidance and a practical guide, published by the Department for Education. Ofsted is carrying out a thematic review of careers guidance, reporting in July 2013, which will highlight good practice and provide a benchmark for future improvements in the quality of provision. Schools are expected to work in partnership, as appropriate, with external and expert careers providers. This can include organisations engaged in delivering the National Careers Service (NCS) or other specialist providers. Young people can also access support from appropriately qualified advisers through the NCS helpline, or by visiting their website. The Skills Funding Agency is responsible for the delivery, design and development of the NCS, reporting to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). Changes to the NCS are monitored by BIS and the Agency through the Careers Guidance and Accounts Board, involving the Department for Education in consideration of the service for young people. The board reviews performance data, quality, policy updates and customer satisfaction and progression reports for consideration and advice as appropriate.

ORAL PQ 26 NOVEMBER

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: My Lords, how alarmed is the Minister by the announcement that there has been a reduction in quality careers guidance in schools and colleges? What are the Government doing to rectify this essential provision, which we need if we are to have good vocational instruction?

Lord Hill of Oareford: I agree with my noble friend about the importance of good careers guidance. He will know that the Government have made a change by placing a duty on schools and colleges to make sure that young people have good-quality careers advice. Our funding reforms will also help to drive the take-up of good-quality work experience, particularly after the age of 16. The more that we can bring employers into the classroom and into colleges, and get them to help to shape the curriculum and qualifications, the better it will be in terms of helping those young people get good jobs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/121126-0001.htm#12112612000026>

SELECT COMMITTEE HEARING 28 NOVEMBER CAREERS GUIDANCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Evidence from Matthew Hancock MP PUSS DFE

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmeduc/uc632-iii/uc63201.htm>

DECEMBER 2012

Media

A new Facebook site was launched.

Political

The London Assembly reviews the effectiveness of adult guidance. Significantly, the government under pressure and following a consultation decides that it 'will extend access to independent and impartial careers guidance to 16-18 year olds in schools and colleges to help young people make well informed decisions about their education. As schools were already subject to the careers duty in respect of pupils in years 9-11, this will be an extension of the school's existing careers programme. The main focus in year 8 will be work to raise aspirations and improve motivation where the school considers this will benefit individual pupils. Alongside this, all year 8 pupils should have access to information and advice about locally available opportunities such as University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools.'

ASSEMBLY LAUNCHES REVIEW OF LONDON'S CAREERS SERVICES

6 December 2013

AMs are investigating the effectiveness of careers services in tackling unemployment. The London Assembly is reviewing the effectiveness of adult careers information, advice and guidance in reducing long-term unemployment in the capital.

<http://www.mayorwatch.co.uk/assembly-launches-review-of-londons-careers-services/201223559>

PQ LORDS 4 DECEMBER EDUCATION: CAREERS ADVICE

Asked by Baroness Walmsley

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish the findings of their consultation on careers guidance for schools, sixth form colleges and further education institutions.[HL3671]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford):

The results of the Government's consultation on extending access to independent and impartial careers guidance were published on Tuesday 27 November on the DfE website at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeopleyoungpeople/participation/a00217489/extending-independent-careers-guidance>.

CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Consultation on extending access to independent careers guidance

Summary of consultation responses

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/r/careers%20consultation%20report.pdf>

CAREER COACH: THE NEW FACEBOOK JOBS SITE COULD THREATEN LINKEDIN

The Daily Telegraph reported on 6 December 2012 that it was only a matter of time before Facebook launched a jobs board, says career coach Jeremy I'Anson - so LinkedIn - and UK recruitment sites for that matter - should ramp up their game if they want to compete successfully. The new Facebook jobs board is targeted at US citizens mainly, but could threaten UK recruiters in future, says Jeremy I'Anson. It had to happen. With nearly 1bn users worldwide it was only going to be a matter of time before Facebook launched a jobs board.

JANUARY 2013

Political

Young people's access to careers advice is shrinking at a time when they need it most, the **Education Select Committee warns**. In a report released on 23 January the Education Select Committee condemned the government's decision to hand responsibility for careers guidance over to schools as 'regrettable'. The committee said it had concerns

about the 'consistency, quality, independence and impartiality' of the advice now offered to young people. This cross party report sets a benchmark in the strength of its opposition to the government's policy reinforced by the weight of written evidence submitted to the Committee by interested parties from the sector. The Select Committee opines: ***"The Government's decision to transfer responsibility for careers guidance to schools is regrettable. International evidence suggests such a model does not deliver the best provision for young people. The weaknesses of the school-based model have been compounded by the failure to transfer to schools any budget with which to provide the service"***. Barry Sheerman the former Chair of the Education Select Committee in an Oral Question on 21 January said "The **Minister (Liz Truss MP)** must know that children from more socially deprived backgrounds desperately need high-quality careers advice. Truss said "We have developed the National Careers Service, and the helpline has had 62,000 contacts with 13 to 18-year-olds, giving people these opportunities. We also ask schools to offer face-to-face advice." However she was clearly more comfortable reiterating the need to give children a sound education than in explaining in any detail the state of careers guidance in schools - you will be hard pressed to find evidence of Truss backing strong independent careers advice.

Ofsted gives more details about its survey that will explore the extent to which all young people up to and including the age of 16 (particularly those most at risk of becoming NEET, disabled young people and those who have special educational needs) are receiving comprehensive impartial advice and guidance in order to make informed decisions about their options pre- and post-16. Results due in the summer of 2013

Media

Extensive national and local media coverage of the Select Committee report on Careers Guidance. See BBC, Financial Times, Independent, CYPN below and North West News. Local Cumbrian Mark Bowman, chief executive of Carlisle-based Inspira, is highly critical of governments approach. Margaret Pagano in the Independent is unimpressed by Careers Advice in schools. She says 'Here's my idea: each of the UK's 3,400 state secondary schools should employ a specialist careers person from the private sector who is highly trained in all new industries, and is dedicated solely to spending time with pupils discussing their future careers and bringing local and national businesses into the schools.'

THE NEW 'CAREER DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE' GROUP ON LINKED IN

The CDI was formally incorporated in September 2012. Its objectives are:

To improve and assure the quality and availability of career development opportunities for adults and young people through:

- (a) The promotion of public understanding of Career Development
- (b) The development and maintenance of standards of professional practice in Career Development, and
- (c) The provision of advice on Career Development to policymakers, practitioners and other interested parties

Subject to the agreement of the members of the four associations (ACPI, ACEG, ICG and NAEGA) their functions will transfer to the CDI in early 2012. Their members can already sign up online, and those with appropriate qualifications can join the Professional register. The Board is preparing for the first AGM, to be held in March 2013.

http://www.linkedin.com/groups?homeNewMember=&qid=4676148&trk=eml-anet_wlcm-h-visit&ut=1Ky26ot_021BA1

CAREERS ENGLAND POLICY COMMENTARY 18

This is the eighteenth in an occasional series of briefing notes on key policy documents related to the future of career guidance services in England. The note has been prepared for Careers England by Professor Tony Watts.

Education Select Committee Report on Careers Guidance for Young People

A.G. Watts

1. The report of the Education Select Committee on careers guidance for young people is a powerful report: cogently argued, well evidenced, and with strong

recommendations on the need for significant changes in current Government policies.
2. The report states unequivocally that "The Government's decision to transfer responsibility for careers guidance to schools is regrettable"
<http://www.careersengland.org.uk/documents/Public/Policy%20Commentary%2018.pdf>

RESPONSIBILITY FOR CAREERS GUIDANCE TO SCHOOLS IS REGRETTABLE: UNIVERSITY IS NOT THE ONLY OPTION FOR GIFTED SCHOOL LEAVERS

The Daily Telegraph reported on 3 Jan 2013 that with the January UCAS application deadline looming, teenagers across the country have spent the Christmas break worrying more about how to get into university than what they will get out of it. But university is far from the only option for school leavers. There are plenty of alternative – and cheaper – qualifications and routes into work for those unsure about academia, or put off by debts of up to £27,000 for a three-year degree. And, contrary to the stereotypes often associated with non-traditional qualifications, many young people exploring these options boast impressive academic credentials. "I've always wanted to be my own boss," says Adam Bradford, a 20-year-old IT entrepreneur with a remarkable 27 GCSEs to his name. "I did a BTEC in enterprise and entrepreneurship, a practical-based course which helped me develop my business idea and provided some excellent contacts and champions, such as Levi Roots, who helped me launch the business."

NEW YEAR, NEW START FOR LEYLAND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Chorley Citizen reported on Wednesday 2nd January 2013 that Young people from Leyland and South Ribble who are not in employment, education or training are being offered help in finding work. The New Year, New Start event is organised by the county council's young people's service, at the Zone, Leyland, between 3pm and 6.30pm on Wednesday, January 9. Help will be available for young people age 16 to 19 to complete application forms, write letters and create CVs. During the afternoon, visitors will be able to talk to representatives from organisations about ways to improve their prospects. There will be advisers on hand to help with any queries and to offer professional information, advice and guidance. Attendees can also find out about local youth clubs and activities and how they can get involved with them. There will be refreshments available free of charge. Cabinet member for young people, County Councillor Mark Perks, said: "Events like this one are an integral part of our commitment to making sure young people have all the information, advice and support they need to make informed decisions on their future."

FEEDING FUTURE CAREERS

A drive to get more young people working in food and farming has been kicked off by Farming Minister David Heath. Farming and other related industries such as engineering and science will need to fill thousands more high-skilled posts in coming years. This is because of the huge potential for growth caused by a rising global population, increasing demand for western-style diets around the world and the need to reduce the environmental footprint of food production. The group will be led by David Fursdon, Chairman of the South West Rural and Farming Network and former President of the Country Land and Business Association. Combining expertise inside and outside farming, it will tour the country and seek ideas and views from a wide cross section of the agricultural sector from farming to science.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2013/01/02/feeding-future-careers/>

STUDENTS WARNED THAT ONLINE BOASTS COULD HARM JOB PROSPECTS

The Daily Telegraph reported on 1 Jan 2013 that Undergraduates at Swansea University have been swapping tales of binge-drinking and lewd behaviour on a page set up specifically for the purpose. The social networking site encourages them to disclose their "most disgusting, hilarious and embarrassing" confessions. But academic chiefs and the student union joined forces to warn students the prospective employers use the internet to gather information about potential recruits. They said that such indecent behaviour could result in disciplinary action and warned that the internet was governed by defamation laws. In a joint statement, registrar Raymond Ciborowski, and Students'

Union president Tom Upton said: "We are seriously concerned about the nature and content of these pages.

JOBLESS YOUTHS MORE LIKELY TO FEEL DEPRESSED, SAYS CHARITY

The Guardian, on Wednesday 2 January 2013, reported that more than one in four young people in work admits to feeling down or depressed always or often, with this figure rising to nearly half among their unemployed peers, according to a youth charity. The Prince's Trust study on happiness found 27% in work reported feeling down or depressed always or often increasing to 48% among those who are not in employment, education or training (NEETs). The findings, based on interviews with 2,136 16- to 25-year-olds in the UK, showed one in 10 felt unable to cope with day-to-day life, with those classified as NEETs twice as likely to feel this way as their peers.

THE UK'S LOST BOYS NEED BETTER CAREERS ADVICE

Margareta Pagano argued in the Independent on Sunday (6th January) that business needs to get behind proposals for specialist mentors who will be far more effective at setting school children on the right work route

EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE

Education Committee - Seventh Report Careers guidance for young people: The impact of the new duty on schools-23 January 2013

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmeduc/632/63202.htm>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmeduc/632/63202.htm#evidence>

Written Evidence

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmeduc/632/632vw01.htm>

CAREERS SERVICES DETERIORATING, MPS WARN

BBC News education correspondent; 23 January

Careers services for young people in England show a "worrying deterioration", MPs are warning. Good careers guidance has been highlighted as important to social mobility and to tackling youth unemployment. But a report from the Education Select Committee warns of problems with "the quality, independence and impartiality" of current careers advice. "Urgent steps" are needed to improve matters, says the report. The cross-party report also criticises the government's decision to give schools responsibility for careers advice - saying the move was "regrettable". MPs reported concerns about the variability of careers guidance offered by individual schools - and quoted claims that this was "not delegation to schools, it is abdication". But the committee found little enthusiasm for the return of the previous Connexions careers service, which had also faced criticism.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-21144825>

CAREERS ADVICE CHANGE FAILING YOUNG PEOPLE - CLAIM

North West Evening Mail on Sunday, 27 January 2013

reported that a youth work agency boss says a report highlighting a "worrying deterioration" in careers advice proves efforts to tackle youth unemployment are being hampered. Mark Bowman, chief executive of Carlisle-based Inspira, spoke after a parliamentary committee said the Government's decision to hand responsibility for careers guidance to schools was "regrettable". And his organisation, which works across the county, fears that more young people will end up out of work or education - costing Cumbrian taxpayers tens of thousands of pounds for every jobless person. The Commons Education Select Committee said it had concerns about the "consistency, quality, independence and impartiality" of the advice now offered to youngsters. Since last September, there has been a duty on schools and colleges to provide all pupils aged between 13 and 16 with impartial careers guidance. But the committee's inquiry into the impact of the move has concluded that the quality of the careers advice on offer has deteriorated, and should not be left to schools alone. It raised concerns that teenagers are not getting face-to-face advice, and that some schools are putting their own interests above their students. There is evidence that young people are facing a

postcode lottery in careers advice, with the quality varying between local authorities and between schools, the report found. Mr Bowman said: "The report highlights what we have been saying for some time now. "Impartial careers advice and guidance available to all young people and delivered by trained professionals is essential to help them make the right decisions for their future. "Given current factors such as the raising of the participation age, the expanding range of educational choices available and high levels of youth unemployment, impartial, professional careers advice is even more critical." Fears also persist that further council spending cuts could further worsen the situation in Cumbria and the efforts to give appropriate advice and guidance given to young people.

OFSTED TO CARRY OUT A SURVEY OF CAREERS GUIDANCE FOR PUPILS UP TO THE AGE OF 16.

7 January 2013

The purpose of the survey is to 'explore the extent to which all young people up to and including the age of 16 (particularly those most at risk of becoming NEET, disabled young people and those who have special educational needs) are receiving comprehensive impartial advice and guidance in order to make informed decisions about their options pre- and post-16'. Although the emphasis will be on inspecting provision for Y9-11 in line with the statutory duty, if a school is doing more, HMI will report on what they see. Ofsted will pay particular attention to provision for pupils at risk, but they will also look closely at the careers guidance provided for all young people. HMI will be using the DFE's broad definition of careers guidance which includes careers information and careers education activities. Sixty schools and academies can expect to receive a one-day visit with a week's notice. In addition, HMI will be asked to gather evidence, if appropriate, from some but not all of the schools and academies due for a section 5 inspection this term. Read the survey outline here

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/careers-guidance-commissioned-survey>

PQ ORAL-21 JANUARY -GUIDANCE AND ADVICE SERVICE

Mr Barry Sheerman (Huddersfield) (Lab/Co-op): What progress he has made on ensuring the provision of a high-quality information, advice and guidance service in all secondary schools.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education (Elizabeth Truss): An excellent broad education grounded in core subjects such as maths, languages and sciences is an important foundation for a successful career. That is why we have introduced the English baccalaureate to encourage students not to close off their options too early. We have also given schools a new duty to secure independent careers guidance, which will help students to make informed choices about the best study routes for them.

Mr Sheerman: The Minister must know that children from more socially deprived backgrounds desperately need high-quality careers advice. All the evidence is that that careers advice is diminishing rapidly up and down this country. What is she going to do about that to help those young people?

Elizabeth Truss: I thank the hon. Gentleman for his question. As I have said, ensuring that more students are taking core subjects means that they will have better career opportunities later in life, and extending the opportunity to study maths and English beyond GCSE level for those who have not got a grade C means that they will get those important points. We have developed the National Careers Service, and the helpline has had 62,000 contacts with 13 to 18-year-olds, giving people these opportunities. We also ask schools to offer face-to-face advice. The key is that students get a good education; that is what will help them to compete in the world.

Mr Graham Stuart (Beverley and Holderness) (Con): Tens of billions of pounds are spent on post-14 education alone, and the choices made by young people are crucial to their future and to that of the nation. The Education Committee's report on careers advice and guidance will come out on Wednesday. Does the Minister agree that we must ensure that the right advice and guidance is in place, not only to help those most disadvantaged in our society but to ensure the most effective use of public funds?

Elizabeth Truss: Of course I will be extremely interested to see what the Select Committee report says on the subject. We do need good careers guidance, but we also

need a system where students have an incentive to take subjects that will prove of value to them later in life. That is the whole point of the English bacculaureate.

MPS CRITICISE SCHOOLS' CAREER SERVICES

Chris Cook, Education correspondent of the Financial Times, on January 23, reported that Careers guidance for schoolchildren is deteriorating in "quality and quantity" at the moment "when it is most needed", according to a review of the issue by MPs. The report, from a Conservative-led cross-party education committee, notes that the decline follows the Department for Education's decision to devolve responsibility for career advice, which had rested with local authorities, to schools in 2011. The committee concluded this decision was "regrettable". The review states: "Although the duty to secure independent and impartial careers guidance was transferred to schools from local authorities, the [£196m] funding did not follow. Schools are expected to provide the service from their existing budgets." The committee also expressed concerns schools' provision in this area was not being checked. Routine inspections are not, on their own, "a credible accountability check on the provision of careers guidance by individual schools". The report expressed concerns that schools might steer pupils into their own sixth forms, even if this is not appropriate, because "in an environment where schools are anxious to retain student numbers in post-16 provision, it may not be in their interest to advise students to study elsewhere". Stephen Twigg, the shadow education secretary, said: "On this government's watch, we have seen more than 8 in 10 schools cut the careers advice they provide." The DfE said that schools are obliged "to secure independent and impartial careers guidance for their pupils. We want headteachers to decide what careers guidance is right for their students and have control over their budgets to provide it."

MPS RECOMMEND EXPANSION OF CAREERS SERVICE TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE

CYPN, on Wednesday 23 January 2013, reported that The National Careers Service should expand its role to help schools to broker face-to-face careers advice for young people, an education select committee inquiry has said. The cross-party group of MPs described the government's decision to transfer the duty to provide careers advice from local authorities to schools as "regrettable", and warned that the change has led to deterioration in the quality of provision. Their report calls for urgent changes to the way in which careers advice is delivered – so that all young people can access face-to-face advice – and calls on the government to invest more funding in the area. It also advocates stricter statutory duties on schools, including a requirement to publish annual careers guidance plans and provide a minimum of one personal careers interview with an independent adviser for each pupil. Committee chair Graham Stuart said young people need a careers advice and guidance system that supports them to make the right choices. "We want face-to-face guidance to be available to all young people as an integral part of a good quality careers service," he said. "They deserve and should receive far better support than current arrangements generally allow."

OFSTED CAREERS GUIDANCE - COMMISSIONED SURVEY

7 Jan 2013 Ofsted

On this page you will find a scoping document giving more information about the upcoming survey report including the background and purpose of the report. This survey will explore the extent to which all young people up to and including the age of 16 (particularly those most at risk of becoming NEET, disabled young people and those who have special educational needs) are receiving comprehensive impartial advice and guidance in order to make informed decisions about their options pre- and post-16.

Scheduled publication: Summer 2013

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/careers-guidance-commissioned-survey>

POOR CAREERS ADVICE IS LEADING TO SKILLS MISMATCH

23 Jan 2013-CIPD

Government, schools and employers need to work together to help young people into work. More than half (53%) of employers believe that young people receive inadequate careers advice and almost two thirds (63%) said that the young people they had recruited lacked insight into the working world*. This is according to research data

collated by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) as part of its submission to the Education Select Committee report into careers guidance for young people, published today. The CIPD is calling on the Government to ensure that improving information and guidance about jobs and career paths and increasing an understanding of the world of work is built into the delivery of education as a coherent and integral part of learning. Evidence gathered from employers and young people as part of the CIPD Learning to Work campaign highlights that the careers advice currently provided in schools is too generalised, is not doing enough to prepare people for the jobs market and is already creating skills mismatches.

<http://www.cipd.co.uk/pressoffice/press-releases/poor-careers-advice-leading-skills-mismatch-230113.aspx>

FEBRUARY 2013

Political

Sir Michael Wilshaw gives evidence to the Education Select Committee and admits the need to "recalibrate the schools framework to focus more on careers advice". Subsequent clarification from Ofsted said that they will wait until after the results of their own thematic survey of careers guidance in schools, due out this summer before they decide on changing the framework.

Media

TES reports 22 February on Sir Michael Wishaw's oral evidence to the Select Committee "recalibrate the schools framework to focus more on careers advice". An anonymous teacher in the 'Private Tutor' column of the Telegraph compares careers advice in the independent sector with that in the state sector. Her state pupils 'My state school pupils, on the other hand, look confused when I ask them about their careers. The doors into the world are shut'

WE WILL MAKE CAREERS ADVICE A PRIORITY, WILSHAW SAYS

FE news TES magazine, on 22 February, 2013 reported that while colleges have long argued that schools fail to provide pupils with information about their options in the FE sector, there has been little recognition of the problem by the powers that be. But chief inspector Sir Michael Wilshaw has given the strongest indication yet that schools' careers provision could be formally inspected as part of Ofsted's framework from September. While inspectors take into account the extent to which "pupils have gained a well-informed understanding" of the career options available to them, there is no separate grade for careers provision. As a result, critics have warned that schools are not being adequately monitored to ensure they comply with their duty to provide impartial and objective advice on qualifications at nearby FE providers. Appearing before the Commons Education Select Committee last week, Sir Michael stressed the need to **"recalibrate the schools framework to focus more on careers advice"**. **"It's really important that impartial advice is given to students on progression routes and I'm not sure that's the case,"** he told MPs. "In our adjustment to our inspection framework from September we will give the inspection of careers advice a priority." Joy Mercer, policy director at the Association of Colleges (AoC), welcomed the news. "We are pleased to learn that careers advice in schools will be included in the new inspection framework," she said. But an Ofsted spokeswoman said the watchdog **would first publish a thematic survey on school careers provision to ascertain the scale of the problem, before making a final decision on whether to change its framework this summer.** Last year, the responsibility for providing careers information to pupils was transferred from local authorities to individual schools, and a new statutory duty compelling schools to offer impartial and independent information, advice and guidance was introduced. While FE minister Matthew Hancock told TES last month that there was "clear evidence" that the new system was working "very well" in "lots of places", concerns have been growing among FE providers. Last month, the Commons Education Select Committee published its own report, which argued that the decision to hand responsibility to schools was "regrettable" and raised concerns about

the "consistency, quality, independence and impartiality" of the guidance currently on offer in schools." We heard evidence that there is already a worrying deterioration in the overall level of provision for young people," the report said. "Urgent steps need to be taken by the government to ensure that young people's needs are met." It referred to FE colleges' concerns that some schools with sixth forms fail to inform pupils about vocational options available at rival providers, due to the drive for "bums on seats". This can, the report said, create "a conflict between the interests of their learners and the school's interest in trying to keep learners with them because of funding". A survey published in March 2012 by the AoC found that just 18 per cent of colleges that responded were granted "significant" access to pupils at local schools, while 74 per cent claimed schools would not even distribute their prospectuses. Malcolm Trobe, deputy general secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders, warned that information, advice and guidance (IAG) would be a very complex area for Ofsted to judge accurately. "Some pupils need hours of work because they are in a very complicated situation. Others already have a clear focus on what they want to do next. We need to ensure that IAG is meeting students' needs, not just about proving that you've ticked a box," he said. An Ofsted spokeswoman told TES that the watchdog would not make a final decision on whether to give careers greater prominence in school inspection reports until the summer. "We will draw on the findings of the Ofsted thematic survey, due to be published in the summer, and consider if any changes are required to its inspection frameworks," she said. 18% of colleges are allowed 'significant' access to pupils at local schools. 74% of colleges have been prevented from distributing their prospectuses in local schools.

MANSFIELD PUPILS' CAREER ADVICE

27 February 2013

Recent iCeGS research conducted with over 500 pupils in Mansfield secondary schools reveals that although only 12% said that they had a clear idea about what they needed to do to achieve their career goal they were very interested in learning more about jobs and careers. They were especially keen on finding out more from local employers, in fact more pupils said they'd value advice from employers than from their own parents or teachers. Furthermore $\frac{3}{4}$ said that they thought that work experience was essential in helping them to find out more about work and their future careers. These findings have recently been presented to head teachers in Mansfield schools and to the Chambers of Commerce to help them think about their provision of careers support in schools. It has also informed services being developed by the Mansfield Learning Partnership such as their me2wrk programme and the mlp careers and employability portal.

<http://www.derby.ac.uk/icegs/news/search-news/mansfield-pupils-career-advice>

I GIVE MY PUPILS CAREER ADVICE. WHY DON'T THEIR SCHOOLS?

The Daily Telegraph 22 February 2013 carried a piece by the anonymous A Very Private Tutor, who said that: One day becoming a judge or politician seems impossible to many children, particularly in the state sector, due to a lack of career guidance.

NO NEEDS: OUR COMMITMENT TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF LEEDS

We should be doing more to nurture local talent and get young people back into work or education

Adam Ogilvie, in the Guardian Professional, Thursday 28 February 2013 said that We believe that in order to support young people, we need to help them find employment or training. The difficult is that many young people and businesses find it hard to navigate the complex system around setting up and finding apprenticeships. To tackle this, we set up an online hub. Building on the number of apprenticeship schemes launched in the city over the last few years, it is a place that employers and young employees can go for support and information. As a central part of our hub we help small and medium sized businesses find apprentices through our recently launched Apprenticeship Training Agency. This network, set up by the council and Leeds City College, reduces bureaucracy and the amount of risk that businesses normally have to contend with when setting up apprentice training programmes. It makes it much easier for companies to employ young people and invest in the skills they need to grow.

MARCH 2013

Media

Tristram Hooley a reader in career development at the University of Derby gives a good summary in the Guardian of the current situation in schools in respect of careers advice and guidance and education. **Working Links** releases its report Finding a Future which finds that 'Over half the young unemployed people surveyed said they received careers advice less than once a year and only 9% received regular guidance' reported on in Huffington Post and HR magazine.'

Political

In a Lords exchange, Lord Nash is critical of the former Connexions Service and admits that £200m that had been spent on Connexions has gone into general school budgets. The anomaly that academies opened after September 2012 are subject to new guidance on careers advice but academies opened prior to September are not, is addressed by Lord Nash. A report by the HEFC for DFE and BIS the 'National Strategy for Access and Student Success expresses significant concerns about the possible effects that shifting responsibility for careers guidance to schools might have on improving access for the most disadvantaged citing evidence including from ICG.

WHAT NEXT FOR CAREERS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS?

Tristram Hooley (*reader in career development at the University of Derby and head of the International Centre for Guidance Studies*), **writing in The Guardian; 4 March 2013** argued that Careers guidance should be at the heart of schooling, but the government needs to recognise that schools cannot do everything. Career guidance for young people is important. With the closure of career services such as Connexions, it's time for government to reconsider the role that career advice plays in education. Once upon a time when a young man or woman set out into the wide world they could seek help from the Careers Service. The Careers Service worked with schools to support career exploration and decision making, but crucially also worked with young people once they left school to aid their transition. It was a public service which was available to all. Those far flung times are now gone, however. The Careers Service was privatised and then transformed into Connexions, in which the careers element grew ever smaller. By 2009 Alan Milburn was able to decry the situation in Fair Access to the Professions and call for change. The Conservative manifesto in 2010 promised to create an all -age careers service available to everyone. Early in their administration it looked like they would follow through but the promise has since fizzled. The Connexions service died with no replacement, and the Education Act 2011 passed responsibility for careers advice to schools. Statutory guidance for schools about their responsibilities was vague and only served to cause more confusion.

4 MARCH- SCHOOLS: CAREERS GUIDANCE

Question 2.44 pm

Asked By Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will provide face-to-face careers guidance for all young people in schools.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Nash): My Lords, statutory guidance has been published to underpin the duty on schools to secure independent and impartial careers guidance introduced in September 2012. The statutory guidance places a clear expectation on schools to secure access to independent face-to-face careers guidance where it is the most suitable support for young people to make successful transitions, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, or those who have special educational needs, learning difficulties or disabilities.

Baroness Jones of Whitchurch: I thank the Minister for that reply. Has he been made aware of the serious concerns that we raised during the passage of the Education Act 2011 as regards the fact that the changes to careers provision would lead to a worse service for young people? Is he now aware of the growing evidence that our concerns unfortunately have proved to be justified? That view is echoed by the Commons Education Committee, which reported in January. It said: "The Government's decision to transfer responsibility for careers guidance to schools is regrettable. International evidence suggests such a model does not deliver the best provision for young people. The weaknesses of the school-based model have been compounded by the failure to transfer to schools any budget with which to provide the service". What do the Government intend to do to address these failings, in particular the overreliance on referring pupils to careers websites, when it has never been more important for children to have guaranteed, personalised, face-to-face careers advice?

Lord Nash: I am aware of the concerns to which the noble Baroness refers. However, hardly anyone—from Alan Milburn to Ofsted—had a good word to say about the quality or effectiveness of the careers guidance provided by Connexions. That is why we gave responsibility for securing careers guidance to schools. They know their pupils best and can tailor provision to their individual needs. The £200 million we have saved on Connexions careers guidance has gone to help protect the schools budget, which itself is a pretty remarkable performance bearing in mind the state of the public finances we inherited. We know of schools which have seized the opportunity. There is no gold standard for careers advice. It is a difficult area. The duty has been in place for less than two terms. To check on progress, we have asked Ofsted to undertake a thematic review, which will be published in the summer. Information on websites can be very helpful, and the Government are considering the Select Committee's recommendation and will respond shortly.

Baroness Brinton: My Lords, I thank the Government for extending the duty for careers advice from years 8 to 13 from September of this year. However, in response to a Written Question on 27 February in which I asked about the status of independent careers advice in academies, the Minister reassured me that academies opened after September 2012 would be covered by the guidance, but those which opened prior to that are not. Does the Minister agree that it cannot be right that some pupils in schools have access to that advice and others do not?

Lord Nash: It is true that academies opened since September of last year will have an obligation in the same terms but academies opened prior to that do not. We have written to all those academies making them aware of this advice and asking them to change their funding agreements accordingly. Good schools seek to identify their students' aptitudes at an early age and to give them guidance throughout their school career. We take the view that one minimum face-to-face interview at the end of one's school career is a poor substitute for a broad education.

Lord Peston: My Lords, bearing in mind the enormous scale of youth unemployment and the fact that a large number of young people who happen to be in jobs are in jobs well below their qualification and skill levels, can the noble Lord imagine himself being transformed from the government Front Bench to being a schools' career adviser? What advice would he give to the young people leaving school later this year?

Lord Nash: It will take me a second just to make that transition. We are focused on making sure that more of our pupils leave school with a good education. It is fair to say that the figures on NEETs have gone down in the past quarter for the first time in 10 years. But the advice I would give such a person is to seek some good careers advice from a qualified person.

Baroness Sharp of Guildford: Is the Minister aware that in a survey conducted by Edge a year or so ago, it was revealed that teachers knew less about apprenticeships than either parents or pupils? Many schools are not providing decent advice about the range of options open to young people. How can careers advice, which is supposed to be independent, be given by schools when the teachers know nothing at all about these options?

Lord Nash: We do not expect teachers to be widely experienced on individual careers. That is why the duty is for them to seek independent advice. All good schools should involve their local business and professional communities from an early stage in their child's education to give them the broad experience of the careers options open to them.

Baroness Scotland of Asthal: My Lords, will the noble Lord tell me how this will be assessed? I speak only from my own experience, when my careers adviser told me that if I tried very hard I might aspire to become a supervisor in Sainsbury's. Is similar advice still being given to aspiring young black girls in Walthamstow?

Lord Nash: Schools are held to account through Ofsted on how well students are prepared to progress to the next stage of education and employment. Linked to that, part of the leadership and management assessment would include the extent to which the school is offering a broad and balanced curriculum. Schools are also held to account by the destinations measured, but I think the noble and learned Baroness rather makes my point for me: it is not just about one interview with a careers adviser.

CAREERS ADVICE IS LETTING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE DOWN, REPORT WARNS

Tom Newcombe , 11 Mar 2013; HR Magazine

Schools must embed careers advice and employability into the curriculum to help combat youth unemployment, according to a report published today by employment and skills firm **Working Links**.

The Finding a Future report has called for every school to have at least one employer on its board of governors to help move education and work closer together. As the UK celebrates National Apprenticeship Week, youth unemployment stands at 974,000 and is recognised as one of the most pressing economic challenges. Working Links interviewed unemployed young people, their parents and UK employers to understand how reforming careers services could improve young people's job prospects and tackle the UK's youth unemployment crisis.

It found that:

- Four in five (85%) young unemployed people feel they left school ill-equipped to find a job.
- Just 14% of young unemployed people said they were told about vocational options, including Apprenticeships, at school.
- Almost three quarters (72%) of parents feel schools do not prepare their children for work with 63% feeling education is focused too much on academic pathways.
- Over half the young unemployed people surveyed said they received careers advice less than once a year and only 9% received regular guidance.

<http://www.hr magazine.co.uk/hro/news/1076562/careers-advice-letting-people-report-warns>

CAREERS ADVICE IS FAILING YOUNG PEOPLE, AS STUDENTS NOT TOLD ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS

The Huffington Post reported on 13/03/2013 that Careers advice is letting young people down, a report has warned, saying the majority have not been told about apprenticeships. Less than 10% of unemployed youths received regular career advice in secondary school, with four in five saying they left school ill-equipped to find a job, research has found. Another report slammed the lack of information about apprenticeships, as half of graduates said if they had been made aware, they would have opted for a vocational route instead. To mark National Apprenticeship Week, careers advice website Notgoingtouni.co.uk, questioned more than 1,700 young people who had graduated from a UK university in the past two years. More than three quarters (76%) said while at school or college, they were not informed about apprenticeships or vocational training routes as an alternative option to university. Of the respondents, 54% said they would have picked an apprenticeship or vocational training if they had known about the options. A third of graduates said they would have chosen an alternative route because they would be in a better position at work than they are now, while 77% said they would have avoided debt. A further third said they were now in an industry completely irrelevant to their degree and nearly two in five said they would have found it less stressful than university. Employment specialist Working Links has also published a report highlighting the lack of careers advice, particularly in relation to apprenticeships. The Finding a Future report revealed just 9% of unemployed young people received regular career advice in secondary school, and less than one in five young people left school well-informed about apprenticeship. A mere 14% of young unemployed people were told about other vocational options at school.

CAREERS ADVICE IS LETTING YOUNG PEOPLE DOWN

Schools must embed careers advice and employability into the curriculum to help combat youth unemployment, according to a new report. The '**Finding a Future**' report, by employment and skills experts Working Links, also calls for every school to have at least one employer on its board of governors to help move education and work closer together. As the UK celebrates National Apprenticeships Week (11-15 March), youth unemployment stands at 974,000 and is recognised as one of the most pressing economic challenges. In its new report, Working Links interviewed unemployed young people, their parents and UK employers to understand how reforming careers services could improve young people's job prospects and tackle the UK's youth unemployment crisis. **It found that:**

Four in five (85%) young unemployed people feel they left school ill-equipped to find a job.

Just 14% of young unemployed people say they were told about vocational options, including Apprenticeships, at school.

Almost three quarters (72%) of parents feel schools do not prepare their children for work with 63% feeling education is focused too much on academic pathways.

Over half the young unemployed people surveyed said they received careers advice less than once a year and only 9% received regular guidance.

Working Links also spoke to employers who expressed frustration at being unable to form closer links to schools and indicated that their local schools are not committed to engaging in meaningful relationships with schools. The research also shows that employers are concerned that the focus on academic pathways discourages young people from exploring alternative options that might better enable them to secure employment in the future. Last year, the government launched the new National Careers Service and switched responsibility for providing independent and impartial careers advice away from local authorities to schools and colleges. Stephen Evans, Working Links' Employment and Skills Director, said: "Young people have been let down by careers advice services for too long. We need this to change and place employability at the heart of our education system, preparing young people for working life. "The new obligation on schools to provide information, advice and guidance should act as a catalyst to recalibrate how schools and employers interact, with the support of local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships and specialist employment services. "There needs to be a commitment from both educators and policy makers to address the problems in careers services to young people. Up to date, local labour market intelligence should be fed into schools and the quality of careers advice must be measured to ensure we tackle this problem."

http://www.workinglinks.co.uk/media_centre/latest_news/careers_advice_is_letting_you_n.aspx

http://www.workinglinks.co.uk/PDF/Finding_a_Future_report.pdf

REPORT ON IMPROVING ACCESS TO HE-FOCUSES ON DEFICIENCIES IN CAREERS ADVICE AND GUIDANCE IN SCHOOLS

A new report the '*National Strategy for Access and Student Success; Interim report to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Office for Fair Access*' identifies, inter alia, an area of concern for the access agenda – 'the changes that came into effect in September 2012 to careers education and guidance.'

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/media/hefce/content/news/news/2013/NatStrat_interim_report.pdf

**Montrose Public Affairs Consultants
For CAREERS ENGLAND
April 2013**