



PRESS NOTICE: 14/3/12

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 Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance 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 on behalf of Careers England and the Quality in Careers Consortium, 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”.*

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. **Careers England is the national trade association for organisations providing careers information, advice and guidance products and services.**
2. The Quality in Careers Consortium was established to oversee the national validation of England's locally developed Quality Awards for CEIAG programmes and provision in schools, colleges and work-based learning. The national validation is known as the Quality in Careers Standard.
3. The Quality in Careers Standard Consortium Board comprises:
 - Dame Ruth Silver as Chair
 - Association for Careers Education & Guidance (ACEG) nominee = Vince Barrett, President
 - Association of Colleges (AoC) nominee = Joy Mercer, Director of Policy (Education)
 - Association of Employment & Learning Providers (AELP) nominee = Graham Hoyle, Executive
 - Association of School & College Leaders (ASCL) nominee = Duncan Baldwin, Deputy Policy Director
 - CEIAG Expert Invitee = David Andrews (CEIAG Consultant).
 - Careers England nominee = Claire Nix, Member of the CE Board/Chair of the CE Quality Task Group
 - Careers Profession Alliance (CPA) nominee = Ruth Spellman, Chair of the CPA
 - Institute of Career Guidance (ICG nominee) = David Milton, ICG Vice President
 - National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) nominee = Lesley Gannon, Head of Campaigns
 - Project Leader = Paul Chubb (Careers England)
4. **Careers England provides support for the Consortium including hosting a dedicated section for the QiCS on its website www.careersengland.org.uk**
5. The ten Quality Awards which have committed to work towards national validation are shown on the CEIAG Quality Awards page on the Careers England website.
6. The new duty requiring all of England's secondary schools, including Academies (through their funding agreements), to secure independent careers advice and guidance for their pupils and students takes effect from September 2012.
7. Statutory Guidance to schools to assist Governing Bodies and Head Teachers to make decisions about how to implement the duty to meet their students' needs is due to be published shortly. Meanwhile the Minister's affirmation of what constitutes sufficiency in respect of the duty, as set out in his public statement above, will assist Governing Bodies as they confirm their budgets and plans for the 2012/13 budgetary year.

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