



## POLICY BRIEFING NOTE: 18

This is the 18th of a series of short Policy Briefing Notes  
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### LABOUR PARTY: THE ADONIS REVIEW

#### IMPACT UPON CAREERS EDUCATION & GUIDANCE?

The Labour Party is expected to back calls made by Lord Adonis in his newly published Review to establish 100 more University Technical Colleges (UTCs) by 2020, Labour leader Ed Miliband it is expected will accept a series of recommendations from the *Adonis Review, 'Mending the fractured economy: Smarter state, better jobs'*.

***MENDING THE FRACTURED ECONOMY- Smarter state, better jobs Final report of the Adonis Review An independent review for the Labour party, supported by Policy Network***

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1. The review, written by Lord Adonis for the Labour Party and supported by Policy Network, argues that the next government should *“establish at least 100 University Technical Colleges by 2020 focused on growth areas of the economy.”*
2. *“UTCs should be a priority when building new schools, to help increase opportunities for technical education.*
3. *“They offer young people aged between 14 and 19 the opportunity to gain a more technical education, which is enhanced by links with local universities, further education colleges and employers.”*
4. The review also recommends that the number of apprenticeships in science, technology, engineering and maths should triple, schools **should appoint directors of enterprise and employment to give teenagers better careers guidance** and that more than £30bn of funding identified by the review should be handed over to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), which would have the power to spend the cash on employment and adult skills, housing, transport and business support.

5. The Adonis Review says *“major expansion of high quality vocational and technical education and STEM apprenticeships for young people, offering more and better work-and-train opportunities in all sectors of the economy”* is imperative.
6. One slight fly in the ointment is that despite their undoubted promise all UTCs, which provide vocational education alongside academic qualifications for 14 to 19-year-olds, that have been inspected by Ofsted to date, have been graded either ‘inadequate’ or ‘requires improvement’.
7. The Review points out that Low productivity and youth unemployment, at 850,000, which accounts for nearly one fifth of young adults and skills shortages are consistently rated a major obstacle to growth, including in the employers’ survey for this review. Since 2010 job creation in low-paid sectors has increased at twice the rate of the economy at large.
8. Amongst the key recommendations are these:

**Recommendation 12:** Increase the number of high quality apprenticeships for young people, including trebling the number of STEM youth apprenticeships by 2020. Existing apprenticeship funding should be more strongly focused on young people.

**Recommendation 13:** Local Enterprise Partnerships should commission regional ‘Business Hubs’ to drive the take-up of apprenticeships, and promote wider business support to firms (as set out in Recommendation 20).

**Recommendation 14:** National government, local government and the NHS should radically increase the number of public sector apprenticeships in technical roles for young people, within existing spending plans.

**Recommendation 15:** Funding for apprenticeships should only be provided to employers for schemes accredited by professional bodies.

**Recommendation 16:** Establish at least 100 University Technical Colleges by 2020 focused on growth areas of the economy.

**Recommendation 17:** Introduce a new national ‘Teach Next’ recruitment and teacher training scheme for experienced career switchers, focused on STEM subjects.

**Recommendation 18:** Every secondary school in England should appoint a full-time Director of Enterprise and Employment. Secondary schools should appoint a dedicated, **full-time director responsible for a broad range of careers and employer engagement activities**. The Director of Enterprise and Employment should be appointed as a member of the senior management team. They should have significant knowledge **of careers and training routes**, and preferably direct experience of the local labour market.

**In this context, Careers England continues to recommend that all Schools and Colleges should seek to secure externally validated quality assurance of their CEIAG provision by working towards a CEIAG Quality Award which is nationally validate by the Quality in Careers Standard.**

**Such external validation would assure that the “broad range of careers and employer engagement activities” (which these proposed new Directors of Enterprise and Employment would be responsible for) are effectively embedded in robust CEIAG programmes.**

**<http://www.careersengland.org.uk/quality.php?page=ceiag-quality-awards>**

**Recommendation 19:** Further education colleges should focus strongly on teaching technician-level skills and adult learning priorities should be set locally.

<http://feweek.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Adonis-Report-Final-Doc-1-July-14.pdf>

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