



## POLICY BRIEFING NOTE: 7

This is the seventh of a series of short Policy Briefing Notes published by Careers England.

### SOCIAL MOBILITY & CAREERS GUIDANCE

#### LATEST MILBURN REPORT

#### SOCIAL MOBILITY & CHILD POVERTY COMMISSION

STATE OF THE NATION: 2013 (October)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/251213/State\\_of\\_the\\_Nation\\_2013.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/251213/State_of_the_Nation_2013.pdf)

See pages 195-197 and 203

1. Here we produce below brief extracts from the Commission's report. These relate directly to the impact of Government Policy for careers guidance and work experience.
2. *PARA 53: The Commission recognises the arguments that led the UK Government to abolish the Connexions service and devolve obligations to schools. We welcome the extension of the duty on schools to secure access to guidance down to Year 8 (12–13-year-olds) and up to Years 12 and 13 (16–18-year-olds) in school or college from September 2013. **But the Government has devolved the responsibilities without devolving the resources to enable schools to provide good careers advice to pupils. The chickens are already coming home to roost.***
3. *The Commission notes evidence of:*
  - **Inadequate levels of provision.** *Ofsted has found that three-quarters of schools in England are failing to provide adequate careers advice and statistics from the National Careers Council show that less than one per cent of teenagers had used the National Careers Service phone line*
  - **Poor-quality advice.** *The Commission has heard evidence of limited face-to-face provision and weak coverage of vocational training and apprenticeship options, with a recent survey showing that nearly three in ten school and college leavers (28 per cent) said that they were not provided with adequate information on alternatives to university*
4. *PARA 54: Whereas better-off families tend to have connections and networks that can compensate for some of these institutional failures, less well-off families are less likely to have this support. The current gaps in careers provision leave disadvantaged young people at risk of missing out on the information and networks they need to*



*make the right career choices. Some schools are rightly re-thinking the format and efficiency of their careers services. Positive relationships between schools and business, in particular, can give children much better insight into future employment opportunities and help to raise expectations about their future careers.*

- *The Commission will be looking for evidence that many more schools and businesses are developing the long-term relationships needed to give more students access to the insight and information that the most advantaged children can take for granted.*
5. *PARA 56: There are similar concerns about whether schools are giving sufficient priority to work experience. 55% of employers think not enough young people leave school with work experience and it seems disadvantaged children are more likely to struggle to get access to high quality opportunities.*
- *Although there is little hard data on what is happening to levels of work experience, the Commission has heard anecdotal evidence of a reduction for under-16s following the removal of the duty on schools to provide it, and there is some evidence of parents being requested to subsidise the cost of work experience.*
  - *The Commission believes that it is important for the Government and schools to rethink the nature and role of work experience (what, when, for whom), high-quality engagement with the world of work plays an important role and these findings are worrying.*
  - *The Commission believes that Government could further incentivise schools to ensure that students have high quality, early engagement with work (as well as wider employability skills) by addressing a key weakness in its destinations data – by improving the quality of data on the destinations of students not continuing in education.*

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

***PARA 61: Fourth, the UK Government should provide additional resources to schools to provide high quality careers services, whilst schools should ensure that they build long-term relationships with businesses and improve work experience opportunities and Ofsted should assess and report on their performance.***

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