

# PRESS RELEASE

## CAREERS ENGLAND LOOKS FORWARD TO THE PROPOSED ALL AGE CAREERS SERVICE FOR ENGLAND

Following the announcement by Skills Minister, John Hayes, of the Coalition Government's plan to begin to introduce a new all age Careers Service for England from September 2011, with full roll-out from April 2012, Careers England (the association representing the major careers sector employers in England) has welcomed these plans.

Allister McGowan, Chairman of the Careers England Board of Directors, said:

"Not only do we welcome this news, but we have already begun offering our informed advice to the Minister and his officials as the shape and details of the new Service are developed and finalised.

The benefits of an all age service will include greater opportunity to secure transition support for older teenagers as well as offering comprehensive support to adults seeking career path moves. As a key employer voice, we look forward to working closely with colleagues in the broader careers service sector across England as well as with professional bodies which represent careers professionals.

The Minister's aspiration for the new service, including that its professionalism will win higher public recognition for the economic and social value of effective and impartial careers advice and guidance, demands that national quality standards must determine which organisations should be approved by Ministers to play a part in the new service. Enhanced requirements for the training and professional development of the new generation of careers advisers working in the new service will also be essential.

Resourcing the new Service in the current economic climate will be no simple matter. We believe that three current Departments of government will have significant interest in the new service: Education, Business Innovation & Skills and Work and Pensions. Careers England members have strong links with all three, and based upon our experiences we are offering advice now on how resources might be secured which bring economies of scale and better value for the public purse from every pound which may become available for the new service.

We know that investment in the new service will bring economic benefits for the country, for employers, and enhanced social mobility for people across all age groups."

### **NOTES:**

***Careers England is the trade association for careers employers whose member companies provide services in more than three quarters of the local authorities in England***

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