



## PRESS RELEASE

### Changes needed to Education Bill to inspire future generations

The recent youth riots have raised many questions about the challenges facing Britain's young people at a time when youth unemployment is almost 1 million, graduate job prospects are bleak and many youth services are being reduced as a result of budget cuts.

The cuts to youth services extend to career guidance provision, where monies are not being specifically dispensed to schools to provide these services, despite schools soon having a statutory duty to do so according to the provisions of the Education Bill.

The UK Careers Sector Strategic Forum has issued a Briefing Note to highlight four key outstanding issues that must be addressed in the Education Bill to ensure young people get the help they need to make informed decisions about subject choices, careers choices, qualification choices, and routes and pathways into further and higher education and into the world of work.

The Forum calls for clarity on:

- the nature of the careers services young people should receive;
- how the quality of career guidance provision for young people is to be assured;
- how breaches in the provision of schools' new statutory duty will be dealt with;
- extending the remit and funding of the National Careers Service to cover NEET young people.

Action is needed in the House of Lords to amend the Education Bill in order to address these issues and, above all, to enshrine the right of young people to access face-to-face career guidance from a qualified career professional. This was recommended by the Coalition Government's own Advocate for Access to Education (Simon Hughes MP) in his report to the Prime Minister (David Cameron) and Deputy Prime Minister (Nick Clegg). Simon Hughes wrote that "... *the government should act urgently to guarantee face to face careers advice for all young people in schools*".

The Forum further calls for the Coalition Government to acknowledge the importance of a high-quality careers education programme within schools or colleges. More support from employers is also important – to help young people to understand the world of work through student placements, company projects, and employers talking in schools about what they do and what skills are needed to get a job in this very difficult economic climate.

#### Notes:

The UK Careers Sector Strategic Forum draws on stakeholders from the careers profession, trade unions, the business sector and relevant education stakeholders.

Working in partnership with Government across the four nations, the Forum has identified a number of immediate priorities:

## **UK Careers Sector Strategic Forum Press Release**

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- Work closely with the Government to develop an all-age careers service in England, learning the lessons from the all-age services in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- Act on the recommendations from the recent report from the Department for Education Task Force on the careers profession chaired by Dame Ruth Silver.
- Ensure the design and delivery of the National Careers Service (in England) and careers services in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland meet the needs of young people, those in work and those looking for work or further study.

Members of the UK Careers Sector Strategic Forum include:

Alliance of Sector Skills Councils

Association for Careers Education and Guidance (ACEG)

Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS)

Association of Graduate Recruiters (AGR)

The Bridge Group

British Chambers (BCCI)

Careers England

Careers Wales

City & Guilds

Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE)

Institute of Career Guidance (ICG)

International Centre for Guidance Studies (iCeGS)

Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS)

National Association for Educational Guidance for Adults (NAEGA)

National Connexions Network

National Institute for Careers Education and Counselling (NICEC)

National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE)

Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)

The Science Council

Skills Development Scotland

TUC

UCAS

UNISON

UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES)

Universities UK (UUK)

Warwick Institute for Employment Research Warwick (Warwick IER)

A convening committee guides the work of the UK Careers Sector Strategic Forum, with membership from: Ian Borkett (TUC), Vivienne Brown (Scotland), Margaret Dane (AGCAS), Paul Holme (British Chambers Manchester), Dr Deirdre Hughes (Careers Profession Alliance), Joyce M'Caw (Wales), Prof Tony Watts and Keith Herrmann.

The Convenor is Keith Herrmann, Director of Higher Ed Research and former Deputy Chief Executive of the Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE).

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