

Young People's Education and Skills Operational Sub-Group

Consultation - Removing the statutory duty to deliver work related learning at Key Stage 4

Item No: 4(c)

Date: 25 November 2011

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Summary

The Department for Education (DfE) is seeking views about the Government's intention to remove the statutory duty to deliver work related learning at Key Stage 4. The deadline for responses to this consultation is 4 January 2011.

Recommendation

OSG members are asked to comment on and contribute to the proposed response.

1 Background

- 1.1 In March 2011 Professor Alison Wolf published [Review of vocational education - The Wolf Report](#). The independent report recommended 27 changes that Government should look to make.
- 1.2 Recommendation 21 of the report proposed that Government should "evaluate models for supplying genuine work experience to 16-18 year olds who are enrolled as full time students, not apprentices, and for reimbursing local employers in a flexible way, using core funds. Schools and colleges should be encouraged to prioritise longer internships for older students, reflecting the fact that almost no young people move into full time employment at 16; and government should *correspondingly remove their statutory duty to provide every young person at Key Stage 4 with a standard amount of work related learning*".
- 1.3 The consultation simply asks "Do you think that work related learning should be removed as a statutory duty?"
- 1.4 The attached response (see Annex 1) has been drafted drawing heavily on the output from the local authority Round Table on Work-Related Learning held on 12 September 2011.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 OSG members are asked to comment on and contribute to the proposed response.

Removing the statutory duty to deliver work related learning at Key Stage 4

Consultation Response Form

The closing date is: 4 January 2012

Your comments must reach us by that date.

THIS FORM IS NOT INTERACTIVE. If you wish to respond electronically please use the online response facility available on the Department for Education e-consultation website www.education.gov.uk/consultations.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

If you want all, or any part, of your response to be treated as confidential, please explain why you consider it to be confidential.

If a request for disclosure of the information you have provided is received, your explanation about why you consider it to be confidential will be taken into account, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data (name and address and any other identifying material) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential. ☐

Reason for confidentiality:

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If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact Sarah Ballinger at 0114 274 2097 or workrelatedlearning.consultation@education.gsi.gov.uk.

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Consultation Unit at 0370 000 2288 or consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk

Please mark an X in one box below that best describes you as a respondent.

<input type="checkbox"/> School teacher/Head teacher	<input type="checkbox"/> Young person	<input type="checkbox"/> Businessman/woman or business representative
<input type="checkbox"/> Local authority representative	<input type="checkbox"/> FE college teacher/Principal	<input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary group
<input type="checkbox"/> Member of the public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please Specify below)	

Please Specify:

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Q1) The Government is seeking to remove the duty to provide every young person with work related learning at Key Stage 4. Do you think that work related learning should be removed as a statutory duty? Please let us have any comments.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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Comments:

The response to this consultation was drafted on the day that the jobless total for 16-24 year olds exceeded one million.

The employability of young people is becoming one of the most important social issues at this time. Every young person, regardless of ability, aptitude, learning pathway or chosen destination, should be undertaking some form of work related learning and have the opportunity to experience the world of work pre-16.

We understand that this consultation seeks views on removing the statutory duty to deliver work related learning and makes the point that *"schools will still be free to determine whether and how work experience for young people at Key Stage 4 is provided"*, but wish to point out that it is the benefits of work-related learning that prepare young people to gain the most from an effective work experience opportunity.

Around 1.9 million children live in workless households – this is one in six of all children. At more than 20 percent of all children, the proportion of children who are in workless households in London is much higher than in any other region of the United Kingdom¹.

¹ GLA Intelligence Unit : Worklessness in London 2011 – Labour Force Survey April-June 2011,ONS

Young people with a family history of worklessness are at risk of being disproportionately disadvantaged by any policy shift away from pre-16 work related opportunities.

Work related learning activities are a vehicle for young people to begin to understand the world of work and provide a different point of view from which to think through their learning options and career choices. High long-term unemployment means that for many young people work related learning is their only exposure to the world of work and school is the first place that introduces them to a balanced view of that world.

The combination of work-related learning and work experience, for many students, provides the most maturing experiences of their entire school careers – no other part of the curriculum demands so much of young people in terms of responding to and learning from new experiences. This is an essential grounding for a rightly more demanding post-16 education phase where the emphasis changes from experience *of* work to preparation *for* work.

At a time when “*almost no young people move into employment at 16*” and more than one million young people are jobless, introducing a change that places them further away from understanding the labour market and the labour market further away from young people is utterly counter intuitive.