

Young People's Education and Skills Board

Careers Guidance – new duties and responsibilities

Item No: 5

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Summary	This paper provides background to a presentation on national policy changes to careers guidance and the emerging models of delivery for Careers Guidance across London from September 2012.
Recommendations	Board members are asked to note and comment on the developments in Careers Guidance in London.

1 Background

- 1.1 In November 2011 the Education Act (2011) brought about changes to the delivery of careers education and guidance, notably the removal of the requirement to provide careers education and the enactment of a new statutory duty for schools, pupil referral units and special schools to secure access to independent careers guidance for every pupil in Years 9 to 11.
- 1.2 The Act defines independent careers guidance as:
 - impartial (promotes the best interests of pupils);
 - includes information on all options available in the 16-18 phase of education or training, including Apprenticeships;
 - provided by people other than those employed at the school.
- 1.3 It will be for schools to decide what careers guidance to make available based on the needs of pupils and the costs of provision will need to be met from a schools overall budget (there is no additional or discrete funding). The duty on schools will commence from September 2012.
- 1.4 Once the duty on schools commences there will be no expectation that local authorities should provide a universal careers guidance service. Local authorities retain their other duties in relation to support for young people, namely to:
 - encourage, enable, assist young people to participate;
 - track offers of education in September, support for young people NEET and monthly reporting to the Department for Education;
 - Support vulnerable young people and those at risk of disengagement;
 - work with Jobcentre Plus to meet requirements for 16-17 year olds eligible for Jobseekers Allowance.

2 A period of transition

2.1 In addition to the Education Act, other significant announcements and policy changes have impacted the delivery of careers guidance over the past 18 months¹:

- the development of a National Careers Service for all ages, limited to telephone and web-based services for young people;
- the merging of Connexions funding into the Early Interventions Grant (reduced by 10.9% in 2011/12);
- guidance from the Department for Education in 2011 indicating that local authorities no longer had a responsibility to provide a universal careers service;
- through a combination of budget reductions and removal of responsibilities, the deletion of approximately £200million of funding (the notional careers-related Connexions funding) from the careers sector;
- two key adjustments to the methodology for calculating the number of young people who are NEET and 'not known'.

2.2 In London, the combination of these reforms have already had the following impact:

- job losses in a range of areas such as the school Personal Adviser workforce, sub-regional partnerships and local community-based follow-up teams (174 estimated job losses as of July 2011)²;
- the closure of local Connexions centres (eleven closures as of July 2011)³
- a shift from universal to focused, targeted services⁴.

2.3 In response to this shifting landscape the Young People's Education and Skills Team, working through the Improving Choices for Young People's Group, developed the *Careers Guidance Transition Framework for London*⁵ to support local authorities and schools to plan for the changes brought about through the Education Act 2011. This has been well received and cited as an example of good practice by DfE.

3 National policy and a changing London picture

3.1 Paul Chubb, Director and professional advisor for Careers England will attend the Board meeting on 6 March to present the national context on careers guidance and provide an informed view of the impact of recent policy changes.

3.2 The Greater London Authority, working with London Councils YPES, has commissioned Inclusion to undertake a survey of London's local authorities and a limited number of schools to identify the emerging offer for careers guidance from September 2012. Tim Riley from Inclusion will present early findings from the survey to the Board.

4 Recommendations

4.1 Board members are asked to note and comment on the developments in Careers Guidance in London.

¹ [Careers Work with Young People: Collapse or Transition? An analysis of current developments in careers education and guidance for young people](#)

² [Careers Work with Young People Dataset](#) based on a survey of 144 of the 150 Local Authorities in July 2011 (all London local authorities were surveyed)

³ See footnote 2

⁴ See footnote 2

⁵ [Careers Guidance Transition Framework for London](#)