

A new careers strategy for England: key points for schools and colleges

The Rt Hon Anne Milton MP, Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills and Minister for Women, chose the Career Development Institute's annual conference at Solihull on 4th December as the occasion to launch a new all-age careers strategy for England.

Download the strategy [here](#).

(https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/664319/Careers_strategy.pdf)

Revised statutory guidance on the careers guidance duty is expected in the New Year explaining in more detail the roles of schools and colleges in delivering key elements of the new strategy. *Career Companion* will provide you with a summary of the guidance and points for action as soon as it is published. In the meantime, schools and colleges can prepare for the new guidance and begin to plan their careers provision for 2018-19 by responding to these key messages in the careers strategy:

- Schools retain responsibility for arranging independent careers guidance for their students (paras.7 & 69)
- Schools should aim to achieve all eight Gatsby benchmarks as the standard of excellence. The statutory guidance due in January 2018 will be framed around the benchmarks (para.50). They should use the Compass and Tracker tools and the new online Provider and Resources Directory to be launched in January to audit and plan how to improve their provision (paras.52 & 97). The government also strongly recommends that schools should work towards the Quality in Careers Standard to provide external assessment of the quality of their provision (paras.53 & 54). Plans are in place to align Gatsby and the Quality in Careers Standard more closely with each other. In addition, Ofsted is being asked to review its approach to assessing careers provision with a view to incorporating any changes in the new Common Inspection Framework due in September 2019 (para.56)
- The role of The Careers & Enterprise Company is being extended over the next three years to include support for all eight Gatsby benchmarks and not just encounters with employers and experiences of workplaces (para.17). It will be given a £5 million investment fund to support the most disadvantaged pupils. It will co-ordinate the work of twenty 'careers hubs' modelled on the Gatsby pilot in the North-East (para.62), increase the number of cornerstone employers from 50 to 150 (paras.27 & 28), provide every school and college with access to an Enterprise Adviser (with initial priority given to schools and colleges in Opportunity Areas) and support schools with offering every young person an annual encounter with employers by 2020, i.e. a minimum of seven encounters during their school careers (para.20). Local CEC Enterprise Coordinators will work closely with Jobcentre Plus advisers working with young people in schools (para.10). Schools need to be proactive in tapping into the support that is available

- Schools in areas that have a local careers strategy should ensure that local priorities directly inform the provision of careers advice (para.22). The Government is establishing Skills Advisory Panels to produce information on local skills needs (para.103)
- By law, schools will be required from January 2018 to give providers of technical education, including apprenticeships, the opportunity to talk to pupils about the courses and jobs they offer (para.31). Schools and colleges will also be expected to promote technical routes for learners who can benefit most from them (paras.14 & 73)
- Higher education institutions will continue to be expected to target disadvantaged students through outreach interventions not just to support them into higher education but to support them into applying to the most selective universities (paras.34-35, para.72).
- A two million pound fund to test careers activities in primary school will start in 2018 (paras.36-39)
- Supported by the Government, schools and colleges will be expected to ensure that STEM encounters are built into their careers programmes (paras.40-47)
- From September 2018, schools and colleges will be expected to publish details of their careers programmes and contact details of their Careers Leader on their websites (paras.57 & 67).
- Every school and college should have a Careers Leader. Gatsby and CEC will set out what Careers Leaders should do; and organisations will be invited to submit proposals for a pilot scheme starting in 2018-19 to train Careers leaders. A four million pound fund has been created to train Careers Leaders in 500 of the country's 3000+ schools with the greatest need (paras.64-68)
- The Education and Training Foundation will develop two sets of online training modules to support careers professionals working with young people with SEND (para.86)
- The CEC and Gatsby Foundation will publish a toolkit for Enterprise Advisers which sets out good practice on supporting young people with SEND (para.87); and the Government will fund work in 2018 to test new approaches and resources to improve careers IAG for young people who are disadvantaged or SEND (para.88)
- A "new, engaging and inspiring" website for the National Careers Service will be developed in 2018 (para.90). Testing with selected colleges will start in 2018 to make it easier for students to apply for their chosen courses (para.94)
- The Government has renewed the contract for LMI for All and will continue to encourage the design of new apps and websites to help young people access this information (paras.95 & 96)
- The Government will make destinations and outcomes data more accessible (para.101).

Anthony Barnes
December 2017