



Press Release - For Immediate Release

26 March 2015

Careers profession welcomes Government's strengthening of careers guidance in schools

The Career Development Institute (CDI), which represents careers professionals throughout the UK, has welcomed the improvements to the provision for careers support for young people in schools in England announced by the Department for Education yesterday.

Speaking after the publication of revised statutory guidance for schools, CDI president Karen O'Donoghue said she was pleased that the Secretary of State had responded to the concerns of business and education and followed recommendations made by the careers profession:

"We need to achieve a better match between the skills of our young people and the demands of the economy; it is shocking that talented young people are still three times more likely to be unemployed than their adult counterparts. Faced with a bewildering range of opportunities in further, higher and work-based learning, young people need high quality, impartial careers guidance to make the best choices."

A survey by Ofsted found very patchy provision in schools across England – very good in some schools, less than satisfactory in others and employers have consistently called for improvements in the support young people receive. This newly revised guidance strengthens significantly the quality assurance framework for careers support in schools, with a renewed call that schools work towards a quality award for careers education, information, advice and guidance. It goes on to offer advice on the Matrix standard, the national quality standard for organisations providing careers guidance, and highlights the importance of career advisers holding relevant professional qualifications.

The CDI welcomes the emphasis that the new guidance places on providing improved careers services, high quality, independent careers guidance, and the provision of face-to-face advice and guidance from qualified careers professionals as principles of good practice.

The CDI President added: "We are delighted that the Secretary of State has listened to the practical suggestions put to her by the careers profession and, in particular, that she has recognised the work we have done on developing professional standards and the UK Register of Career Development Professionals. We hope that the newly created Careers and Enterprise company will facilitate the implementation of the statutory guidance into good practice by incentivising schools to work towards a quality award and to secure a properly qualified, independent careers professional. Access to development funding to help schools build their capacity to take on the statutory duty would really help to ensure that all young people had access to the high quality careers support they both need and deserve."

Ends...

Additional Information

1. The Career Development Institute (CDI) is the UK-wide professional body for the career development sector, with a growing membership of over 4,500 career advisers, career teachers, career coaches and career managers.
2. The CDI is the custodian of the publically searchable 'UK Register of Career Development Professionals'. Over 25% of CDI members are on the Register.
3. The CDI resource – *A Guide to Best Practice and Commissioning Career Guidance Services* and *Why Does Employer Engagement Matter? A toolkit for managing employer activities in schools and colleges*, can be downloaded from the website <http://www.thecdi.net/Reports---Resources>
4. The CDI is a member of the new Careers and Enterprise Company's Advisory group.
5. More information about the work of the CDI can be found on our website www.thecdi.net
6. For more information please contact:
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