

Organisations, MPs and Lords rally for Career Guidance Guarantee

The [Career Development Institute](#) (CDI) along with more than one thousand organisations, Lords and MPs have signed an open letter to government calling for a Career Guidance Guarantee for young people and unemployed adults.

The UK faces an unprecedented period of turnover in its labour market as 800,000 students leave education and many people face redundancy as the furlough scheme winds down.

Sent to Education Secretary Gavin Williamson, [the letter](#) calls for a Career Guidance Guarantee through a £26 million fund that would be channeled immediately through existing agencies until the end of 2020.

The Guarantee would ensure that everyone aged 16-19 in education, all education leavers, those who are already NEET, and adults who are unemployed, would have access to quality personal career guidance to help them move on to further education, employment or to additional training and apprenticeships.

Over 250 organisations and almost 900 individuals including MPs, the Chair of the Education Select Committee, Members of the House of Lords, and key opinion formers signed the letter.

It is supported by [An emergency career development plan to maintain employment, productivity and progression post-Covid-19](#). As well as short-term investment, the plan calls for a new careers strategy to be published in January 2021 and a review of the current career guidance system.

Jan Ellis, Chief Executive at the CDI commented: “This has been an unsettling time for young people and their ideas about their next steps will be changing. They will be seeking reassurance and up-to-date information on the opportunities available yet once schools and colleges close for the holidays, there is nowhere for them to get personal career guidance. Meanwhile those not in education have very limited access to guidance and services for adults are increasingly stretched.

“We need to act now to reach those most in need of support. A Career Guidance Guarantee is a critical step in a much needed, more joined-up approach. It will help young people and adults make sense of the labour market and find the best education, training and employment opportunities for them. Providing enhanced personal guidance makes economic sense too, because it will contribute to a high skills and high productivity recovery.”

Lord Jim Knight of Weymouth said: “This is a hugely uncertain time for job prospects. There has never been a greater need for an all age professional careers service. I hope the government is listening and will deliver the funding such a service so desperately needs.”

Lord Mike Storey, Lib Dem Education Spokesperson House of Lords said: “During this very difficult period, it is more important than ever that young people get professional careers guidance.”

Professor Tristram Hooley, Chief Research Officer, Institute of Student Employers said: “Covid-19 has already seen a massive contraction of the labour market. For young people leaving education or workers being made redundant this will be a very difficult time to find a job. It is vital that we have Career Development Institute

high quality personal career guidance to support people to find work or training that will drive their career forward and help to rebuild the economy.”

Clare Viney, Chief Executive, Careers Research & Advisory Centre said: “CRAC urges the government to invest in the Career Guidance Guarantee and reinforce careers guidance now to avoid a lost generation of young people and minimise negative effects on those whose job circumstances have changed as a result of this crisis. CRAC provides research, intelligence and innovation services for all those who support career development; we would welcome the opportunity to contribute to a much-needed review of England’s current fragmented careers provision and creation of a more robust lifelong system.”

Laura-Jane Rawlings, Chief Executive Officer, Youth Employment UK said: “Young people tell us that one of their biggest barriers to employment is not knowing what careers exist, they also say that they would like more 1-2-1 support, they want to work with professionals who can put the opportunities available into their own context and support them on their journey to employment. This is why Youth Employment UK supports the call for a Career Guidance Guarantee and hopes that the needs of young people and the support to help them transition will be a government priority.”

Kieran Gordon, Executive Director, Careers England said: “Careers England fully endorses the Career Development Policy Group letter to The Secretary of State for Education. Now, more than ever, individuals need a guarantee of informed and expert help to navigate the changing opportunities in the labour market.”

Dr Deirdre Hughes OBE, Director, DMH & Associates said: "Both school and college leavers need urgent guidance on available options and choices - this must not simply be left to chance! A tsunami of youth unemployment is expected, therefore Government has a responsibility to ensure every young person in England has access to trained and qualified careers advisers in their local community."

Ends

Media enquiries and interviews

Clare Tregaskis, clare@claretpr.com, 07792 429227

Notes to editors

1. The Career Development Institute is the UK-wide professional body for the career development sector, with a membership of 4,700 career development professionals working in the public, private and voluntary and community sectors.
2. Our members work across the sector as career leaders, career advisers, career coaches and career managers. Many also work in employability and employer engagement. We welcome new members – you do not need to be qualified but must agree to work to the CDI’s Code of Ethics.
3. The CDI runs both non-accredited and accredited courses, the latter through the CDI Academy. Our certificated courses include the QCD Qualification in Career Development at 7 universities, the full L6 qualification in Career Guidance and Development, the CDI Certificate in Careers Leadership and CDI Certificate in Career Guidance Theory. The CDI also trains almost one-third of all careers leaders through the Careers & Enterprise Company’s programme, which is part of the current Careers Strategy.
4. Our reports, press releases and publications are available through our website - <http://www.thecdi.net/Reports---Resources>
5. For more information on the work of the Career Development Institute please visit our website www.thecdi.net or contact chief executive jan.ellis@thecdi.net