

Career guidance services in England are in need of improvement, so why no proposals in the party manifestos?

The Career Development Institute and Careers England have today published a joint statement highlighting that while there is wide political consensus that career guidance services in England need to be improved, there are no details in any of the manifestos as to how this step change might be achieved.

By stating, back in January 2017, its intention to publish a comprehensive careers strategy the outgoing government recognised that career guidance services in England need improving. We are, therefore, particularly disappointed to find that the Conservative Party manifesto for the current General Election includes no mention of careers support for young people or for adults.

The manifestos for the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrats and UKIP each include a single sentence commitment to improving careers advice, but none of them go on to provide any further details of what they propose to put in place. The Green Party makes no mention of career guidance at all.

So, we have consensus across four of the main political parties in England that something must be done, but a worrying lack of specific proposals.

This General Election is taking place at a time of great uncertainty nationally. Whatever form Brexit takes, it is likely to bring both opportunities and challenges. For the UK to remain competitive and for the economy to grow in a global market, the nation will need to be more self-sufficient in developing the skills of its workforce. We will need to ensure a good match between the skills that individuals develop and the demands of the labour market.

For the health of the nation and the well-being of its citizens, we will need lifelong access to career guidance for all young people and adults. The CDI and Careers England urge all parties to put forward to the electorate the actions they propose to take to make that happen.

Ends...

Additional information

1. The Career Development Institute is the UK-wide professional body for the career development sector. Its 5,000 members are career advisers, career teachers, career leaders, career coaches and career consultants working in the public, private, voluntary and community sectors.

2. Careers England Ltd is the sole trade association for organisations involved in the provision of careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) products and services in England for people of all ages.
3. [Lifelong career development for all: careers services that work for everyone](#) can also be accessed through the CDI website – www.thecdi.net

The CDI's manifesto proposals in summary:

- **The current National Careers Service should be reconstituted into a truly all-age career development service**
 - **All adults should have access to a mid-life career review**
 - **All careers advisers should be professionally qualified**
 - **All schools should be encouraged to adopt the Gatsby benchmarks of good practice and be required to achieve the Quality in Careers Standard**
 - **The statutory duty to include careers education in the curriculum should be reinstated and extended to age 18**
 - **All schools should be encouraged to appoint a careers leader**
 - **Career development co-ordinators should be appointed in all local areas, to support schools and careers leaders**
 - **The Government should initiate a campaign to improve the prestige of careers guidance**
4. For more information about the work and role of the CDI visit the website or contact the Chief Executive Jan Ellis – jan.ellis@thecdi.net
 5. For more information about the work and role of the CDI visit www.careersengland.org.uk or contact the Executive Director – steve.stewart@careersengland.org.uk