

National Careers Leaders Conference

Inclusivity, Continuity and Creative Professional Practice

Thursday 8 – Friday 9 July 2021

Conference themes and seminar proposals

This year we have identified three themes: **Inclusivity, Continuity and Creative Professional Practice** to underpin the conference. We felt that these three themes reflected the current careers education and guidance agenda.

Inclusivity: Recent media coverage of the inequalities faced by many in society have highlighted the need for all sectors to examine their practices. The career development sector is no exception and even though, as a profession we are guided by the CDI Code of Ethics, which reminds us of the need to practice equality, to actively promote diversity and to be objective in our practices, we think you will agree that there is a lot more to be done.

Inclusivity is a huge area and we will only be able to touch on some of the key aspects. Our programme will include inputs on multicultural career guidance, unconscious bias and the career guidance needs of individuals with protected characteristics. We welcome seminar proposals which highlight good practice and innovation around the themes of equality, diversity and inclusion.

Continuity: The recent White Paper 'Skills for Jobs: Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth' (DfE 2021), outlines the government's plans to reform further education. Part of the messaging of the White Paper is that '*people can access training and learning flexibly throughout their lives and are well-informed about what is on offer through great careers support*'. We believe that this requires all providers of careers education and guidance to work together to ensure a streamlined and coherent system which supports young people into, through and beyond further education and training.

This theme is intended to offer Career Leaders from schools, and colleges an opportunity to learn from each other about how to make the system more flexible and coherent. Under this theme we will welcome seminar proposals which explore collaborative partnerships and innovative practice between schools, colleges and training providers. We would also like to hear from widening participation practitioners and University-based career staff on the innovations which have helped to make transition effective into HE.

Creative professional practice: We seem to have spent the last year experimenting with and perfecting our digital skills and approaches. As we emerge from the pandemic we are conscious that we do not want to lose some of the excellent practice we have developed and want to use the conference as an opportunity to share this.

As part of this theme we want to hear from seminar providers who wish to share innovations which have emerged as part of the pandemic and which they wish to continue with as examples of good practice. We recognise that much of this will focus on the use of technology but we want to go beyond this too. We would therefore like to receive seminar proposals from providers who have discovered new ways of supporting their clients using innovative techniques, applications of theory or creative approaches.