



Press Release

"Being "enterprising" is great - if it delivers skills for employability " says leading careers sector body

The Career Development Institute (CDI) has given a cautious welcome to the Secretary of State's announcements for investment in careers advice for schools.

The three main strands relate to the creation of a new legal entity chaired by Christine Hodgson, UK Chair of Capgemini. This new body will oversee a £5 million Innovation Fund as well as the establishment of a network of enterprise advisers and was also described in the House of Commons as being the facilitator of inspirational interactions with employers that might challenge preconceived ideas about work, training and stereotypes. .

Speaking after the announcement, CDI President Karen O'Donoghue said:

"Our sector has taken a beating over the last few years with a massive loss of investment in England's youth. The announcement in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement of a £20 million investment has to be welcomed, though over £150 million is still lost compared to the Connexions Service: Young people often need help to create personalised plans to follow on from their inspiring interactions with employers: Being "enterprising" is great if it delivers skills for employability in a framework of planned careers education and tailored careers guidance.

Since the funding was announced last week CDI has written to Nicky Morgan MP outlining a practical, no-nonsense menu of support including:

- Ensuring the availability of a professionally qualified and registered Careers Guidance practitioner
- Whole school training and development that embraces curriculum leaders and senior school management
- Working towards a Quality in Careers Standard approved award
- Web and printed resources for use by students within a planned Careers Education programme

The menu included the request for opportunities for researching new approaches and funding for innovation which are now understood to be part of the remit for the new company. The CDI has also sought support for a Directory of Careers Providers, as recommended by the National Careers Council, and government backing for National Careers Week.

Karen O'Donoghue added that the development of the new company could be a real opportunity to investigate, review and develop provision for young people independent of government, with scope to challenge the existing spread of responsibilities, including the role of Local Authorities, LEPs the National Careers Service and programmes under the Department for Work & Pensions, such as the Youth Contract:

"Both the National Careers Council and the Gatsby Foundation recommended the appointment of an employer led advisory body and clearly this shift to a company board is a step on. If the new company has a brief to review the potential to ensure a genuinely all age, all stage careers service, delivering professional career guidance services then this could be a positive move."

The new company is expected to take time to consider its agenda and the CDI is delighted to have been invited to play a key role in advising the board in its early stages. Karen O'Donoghue will join other sector leaders, representatives from schools and employers as part of the national advisory group, details of which will be announced soon.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. The Career Development Institute is the UK-wide professional body for the Career Development sector.
2. The purpose of the Career Development Institute is to improve and assure the quality and availability of career development opportunities for all through the promotion of public understanding of Career Development; the development and maintenance of standards of professional practice in Career Development, and the provision of advice on Career Development to policymakers, practitioners and other interested parties.
3. The Career Development Institute has a growing membership, currently has 4,200 members drawn from schools, careers service companies and private practitioners. It is the largest professional body for the careers sector in Europe.
4. The Career Development Institute maintains the UK Professional Register for Career Development Practitioners. Registration requires a recognised qualification at QCF Level 6 or above; a commitment to ongoing professional development; sign up to a Code of Ethics for Professional Practice.
5. The Institute works in partnership with government departments, schools, colleges, universities and employers to support the provision of excellent careers information advice and guidance for all those that need it.
6. More information about the CDI can be found at www.thecdi.net

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