



## Press Release

### **One in three schools are not meeting their legal responsibility to provide pupils with independent career guidance**

Research commissioned by the Department for Education (DfE), published three years after the Government introduced new statutory duty on schools to secure access to independent careers guidance for pupils aged 12 to 18, has found that only two-thirds of schools are meeting this requirement by engaging external, professional careers advisers.

This analysis is consistent with the findings of a survey undertaken by the Career Development Institute (CDI), published in May. Yet nearly all the schools responding to the DfE mapping exercise reported that the aspect of careers support that was of *most value* to students was individual face-to-face discussions.

Two years ago Ofsted reported that the Government's policy was simply not working well enough. The response from the DfE at the time was that it was too early to make a clear judgement. "Now that three year groups of young people have made the transition from school under the new arrangements, and have received inconsistent support, it is time for a change", said Karen O'Donoghue, CDI President, in response to the DfE's report.

"All young people should have access to high quality careers support. The DfE has recently set up a new Careers and Enterprise Company to assist schools in ensuring that pupils get the guidance they need but, so far, its activities have been focussed only on

establishing links with employers. It is early days but we would like to see more emphasis on career education and guidance, including actions to ensure that all young people have access to timely independent career guidance from professional career advisers.”

The CDI continues to call on the Government to reconstitute the National Careers Service in England into a genuinely all-age careers guidance service that could make careers guidance available in all schools. We are growing increasingly concerned about the quality of career guidance provided to young people and are calling on the Government to require all careers advisers providing careers guidance in schools to have a recognised professional qualification in careers guidance, to at least Level 6.

Worryingly the research commissioned by the DfE also found that one in five schools no longer provide careers education in the curriculum. The DfE strengthened its Statutory Guidance to schools in March of this year, and recommended that all schools should work towards achieving a quality award for careers, nationally validated by the Quality in Careers Standard. It is disappointing that the Government has recently rejected a recommendation from the Education Select Committee, in its report on apprenticeships, that careers guidance in schools should be strengthened further by requiring all schools to work towards a quality award. The CDI is therefore, calling for the Government to reinstate the statutory duty to include careers education in the curriculum and to accept the Committee’s recommendation that all schools should be required to achieve a recognised quality award.

Karen O’Donoghue concluded by saying, “As both the DfE’s research and our own survey have demonstrated, the current policy has resulted in patchy provision. Now is the time to take decisive action to ensure that all young people get the careers support they need to make the right decisions about future study and to succeed in working life. Young people’s futures and the future of our economy depend on it”.

**Ends.**

**Notes to editors:**

1. 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.
2. The Career Development Institute currently has 4,500 members drawn from schools, careers service companies and private practitioners.
3. The Career Development Institute maintains the UK Professional Register for Career Development Practitioners. Registration requires a recognised qualification at post graduate equivalent; a commitment to ongoing professional development; sign up to a Code of Ethics for Professional Practice.
4. 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.
5. The CDI's recent survey of schools, can be read here: [Survey of Career Education and Guidance in Schools and Links with Employers \(May 2015\)](#)
6. More information about the CDI can be found at [www.thecdi.net](http://www.thecdi.net)

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