

### Secretary of State announces more money for careers education but what about the gaps?

In case you missed the [announcement last Tuesday at the Conservative Party Conference](#), here are the full details: The Rt Hon Damien Hinds MP, announced that the government is doubling the number of Career Hubs and careers leader training places for schools and colleges – investing an additional £4M.

It was only last July that the government announced the launch of 20 Career Hubs and 500 free training places for careers leaders. This new promise increases the number of Career Hubs to 40 and career leader training places to 1300.

The CDI welcomes this increase in training places, which puts the focus on career leaders at the centre of the government's careers strategy in schools and colleges. We are also very aware that many schools have previously been turned down for a free place, so this announcement is encouraging.

However, Mr Hinds chose to ignore some of the realities of the new careers strategy:

1. There is a shortage of qualified careers advisers in the sector and what the country needs is serious investment in the initial training of career advisers at L6/L7.
2. A school focused careers service is fine but what happens to young people who for several reasons are not in school/college? Often the most vulnerable, where can they go for help? How can they see a careers adviser?
3. There seems to be no clear action plan regarding joining up support for young people and support for adults? The English system lacks coherence and cannot be economic. What happened to lifelong career guidance for all?

Taking a broader view, we could add more – salaries for careers advisers are not keeping pace with other professionals working in schools and colleges and the National Careers Service helpline, often praised for having a revamp, does not employ sufficient career professionals qualified to give individual career guidance counselling.

So, in terms of an end of year report, *we are delighted to see some small financial improvements but there is still a long way to go*. We will be taking every opportunity to support the progress but lobby the government, the DfE, Education Select Committee and Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC) on the deficits.

Looking ahead, we believe that the CEC funded personal guidance projects (applications for the next round of funding need to be submitted by 23 November) will show that the government does not have to invest the vast sum that funded the Connexions Service, to give young people in schools and colleges access to high quality individual career guidance counselling, £50M would make a good start.

### **Ends...**

### **Notes**

1. The Career Development Institute is the UK-wide professional body for the career development sector, with a membership of 4,250 career development professionals working in the public, private and voluntary and community sectors.
2. Our members work across the sector as career leaders, career teachers, 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 is the custodian of the National Occupational Standards for Career Development and the UK Register of Career Development Professionals. Both career advisers and career leaders may join the Register, although only career advisers may give personal careers guidance.
4. The CDI runs both non-accredited and accredited courses, the latter through the CDI Academy. Our certificated courses include the CDI Certificate in Careers Leadership and CDI Certificate in Career Guidance Theory. The CDI also delivers training for careers leaders as part of the 1300 free places offered through the Careers & Enterprise Company on behalf of the government.
5. Our reports, press releases and publications are available through our website - <http://www.thecdi.net/Reports---Resources>
6. For more information on the work of the Career Development Institute please visit our website [www.thecdi.net](http://www.thecdi.net) or contact chief executive [jan.ellis@thecdi.net](mailto:jan.ellis@thecdi.net)