

Meeting: Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee

Date: 19 October 2015

Title: Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Champions update

Authors: Shona Duncan Tel: 643 6065

Service: Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding
Employment and Skills

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose

This report provides the Committee with an update on the Careers Education; Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) Champions pilot and provide information on new and additional projects related to this area of work.

1.1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to consider the report, make comment and consider their support for these projects in North Tyneside.

2.1 Context and Background

The North East Local Enterprise Partnership and the North East Combined Authority (NECA) are both committed to supporting the development of quality assured and improved Careers Education Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) in schools.

2.2 There is an increased focus and prioritisation by government departments in considering what improvements are required in schools to better develop the Careers Education offer. As a result there has been an increase in nationally delivered projects to support this area of work.

2.3 There continues to be a lack of clarity as to what regional and local coordination of this service should be or whether the service provided should be left to national direction and local market forces.

2.4 In North Tyneside the Council continues to prioritise the local coordination and scrutiny of the local offer. This is via the Connexions service that provides a Schools offer of Careers Education prior to leaving Education and an offer to young vulnerable people, including those that are Not In Education Employment or Training i.e. NEET.

2.5 In the summer of 2014 the seven Local Authorities within the new Combined Authority secured funding from the North East LEP to pilot a project to create accredited Careers Education Champions in schools. The project commenced in September 2015.

3.1 The Pilot programme

The pilot was developed by the seven Local Authorities in the NECA, CfBT- the National careers Service provider and the Connexions Hub based in Gateshead. The Connexions Hub is an organisation, funded by the local authorities and schools to coordinate support to schools to develop young people to make informed careers decisions and be ready for work.

3.2 Initially the pilot attracted volunteer champions from 21 schools, as the project progressed 15 schools were able to continue the activity. The Champions have participated in an accredited training programme, devised a self-evaluation toolkit and resources, which are being trialled in their own schools.

3.3 The training programme provides the “Inspiring Careers” Quality award – one of the Government approved Careers kite-marks that schools are encouraged to achieve as per the Statutory Guidance to schools in ‘Careers Guidance and Inspiration in Schools’ (March 2015). Each champion will also aim to achieve the nationally recognised qualification: Level 6 Diploma in Careers Guidance and Development.

3.4 In North Tyneside two schools were involved in the pilot stage – Churchill and Seaton Burn Community schools. Both have gained stage 1 of the Award and are now about to be assessed for stage 2. Thereafter they will progress to the stage 3 Gold Award. Two key members of staff with responsibility for the coordination of careers activities from both of the schools have now achieved their Level 6 qualification.

3.5 Throughout, the pilot period, schools have received on the ground support from a local careers-mentor. This has proved valuable to schools in helping them to review their current provision and to produce detailed plans for their future career activities across the whole school.

3.6 The award is completed in three stages, including a self assessment, external assessment and written reports. The process assesses inputs and outcomes and consults with young people, external partners, parents/carers as well as key staff.

4 Progress to date

4.1 All 15 schools are expected to achieve their stage 2 award by December 2015. The participating schools have evaluated and concluded that the work undertaken was worthwhile and has provided a framework for careers education in school. The champions also commented that the qualification required more study and preparation time than anticipated but that this

provided the quality approach that they now consider worthwhile in delivering an appropriate careers education offer.

- 4.2 Sunderland Council identified additional funding and has been able to support an additional 5 schools to undertake the work to achieve the quality mark.

5 North Tyneside

- 5.1 The Churchill Community School champion has presented their approach and outcomes to the local head teachers briefing meetings for all schools to consider as good practise. It is intended to continue this level of briefing to all schools as appropriate.

- 5.2 Early in 2016 once the two champions have completed their award we will invite all school careers leaders to a workshop to explore good practise and encourage schools to take this approach.

- 5.3 In addition a review is shortly to be led by the Council's Connexions service with schools to consider what the future service offer from the Connexions service should be.

6. Additional work

- 6.1 In addition to the activity mentioned there are an additional two key projects currently being implemented across the region, including North Tyneside. These are the **Gatsby Foundation programme**, the **National Careers Enterprise Advisor programme** and the **Skills Funding Agency funded Information, Advice and Guidance programme**.

- 6.2 The **Gatsby Foundation** work is a programme led by the North East LEP that will test a set of benchmarks developed by University of York. £500k will be invested over two years to support 16 schools and colleges across the region to lead the development of good practise in careers education. Churchill Community College is one of those selected.

- 6.3 A coordinator has now been appointed by the North East LEP to coordinate this work. An inception meeting is scheduled for the beginning of October 2015 and schools are currently being audited against the benchmarks.

- 6.4 The North East LEP was invited to submit a proposal to the National Careers and Enterprise Company to be part of the **Enterprise Advisor programme**. We have been advised that the proposal was successful and we have been awarded funding for the delivery of a programme from September 2015 to August 2016.

- 6.5 The Enterprise Advisor network is intended to inspire and motivate young people and support them to make informed choices about their future. The Enterprise Advisor network will enable high calibre volunteers to work directly with the senior leadership team in secondary schools and colleges to support more effective connection to the world of work and develop, shape or

add value to the school or college's careers, enterprise and engagement strategy.

- 6.6 It is envisaged that through the Enterprise Advisor network and existing relationships with employers, the offer from employers to schools will increase so that in time every young person should be able to access work related interventions at multiple points as they progress through their schooling.
- 6.7 A detailed project plan is currently being developed.
- 6.8 **Interserve** a national training provider has been awarded a Skills Funding Agency contract to work with schools in the North East to offer large scale careers education events to pupils. These events will have a strong focus on promoting Apprenticeships.
- 6.9 Initial contacts are just about to take place with Interserve to consider what this offer will look like for North Tyneside and how best to ensure our pupils engage with the proposed events.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 Committee members are requested to consider the report, make comment and consider their support for the projects listed.