

Meeting: Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee

Date: 19 September 2016

Title: Provision of Careers Education in schools.

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Employment and Skills

Service: Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the range of activity that supports children in schools to learn about the 'world of work' and the Council's duties in relation to Career learning.

2. Recommendations

To note the statutory duties associated with young people's career-learning and career progression and the scale of work that underpins this learning.

3. Information

- 3.1 Since 1974 and the introduction of the Local Government Act, the provision of a Careers Guidance Service for young people became the responsibility of Local Authorities. Over time, further statutory changes to those arrangements have taken place, but the provision of Careers Education and Information, Advice & Guidance (CE-IAG) support has continued to be delivered in North Tyneside by a local authority placed service (Tyneside Careers, Connexions Tyne & Wear, Connexions North Tyneside).
- 3.2 Direct Government funding for Connexions nationally and related careers guidance support for young people ceased in 2010. North Tyneside council has elected to continue to fund a service for young people albeit in a more reduced form since direct funding ceased.
- 3.3 At the start of academic year 2011-12, the Connexions Advice and Guidance Service looked to off-set some of the cost of delivering the service by introducing a Service Level Agreement charge. The model of delivery and the basis of the charge were designed in consultation at that time with head teachers and senior school leaders.
- 3.4 From April 2017, it is intended that there will be no subsidised Careers Guidance service for Schools in North Tyneside and Connexions will be seeking recovery of the full-cost of the service from schools through a new SLA.

4. The context of Careers Education.

- 4.1 'Careers Education' has long been recognised as the task of schools to provide for which careers advisers have always supported with either direct or indirect delivery. In North Tyneside, Connexions advisers as part of the traded arrangement with

schools, delivered over 250 Class based sessions in schools last year. Those sessions follow a prescribed Framework for career-learning outcomes.

- 4.2 Nationally however, the quality and amount of time that schools commit to Careers Education has been variable. Ofsted report that only 1 : 5 schools are effective in providing pupils with the level of information and knowledge needed to understand the complexity of choices for learning, training and career.
- 4.3 To address this, Statutory Guidance has been issued to Schools that outlines the expected level of Careers Education – Information, Advice & Guidance that should be in place for pupils from Year 8 to Year 13. As such, the Government are setting a challenge to schools to improve pupils career-learning through a combination of activities:
- Activities that develop character attributes
 - High quality, independent careers guidance – available in the school
 - “Real-Life” contact with the world of work
 - A school strategy for the career-learning that has learning outcomes
- 4.4 The recognition of the value of Careers Education has been further underpinned by the Government commissioning of the Social Enterprise Company to oversee the investment of some £70m of funding in ventures that enable Schools to deliver the career-learning that Government want pupils to gain.
- 4.5 Furthermore, following the publication in 2015 of a report from the Gatsby Foundation by Professor Sir John Holman, that sets out 8 benchmarks for ‘Good Careers Guidance’ in Schools, the Government have supported a national pilot to test these benchmarks. This pilot is taking place in the north east with some 22 schools and colleges, one of which is in North Tyneside. It is anticipated that the publication of new Statutory Guidance on Careers Education (publication delayed from July) will reference the findings of the Gatsby Pilot and confirm that the benchmarks are the measure that Schools will be expected to adopt to show their commitment to Careers Education.

“Our work suggests that there is no single ‘magic bullet’ for good career guidance: it is about doing a number of things, identified in our benchmarks, doing them consistently, doing them well and doing them for all and every student.” Gatsby.

5. Statutory Commitments.

- 5.1 There are a number of statutory requirements and conditions that both the LA and Schools are expected to meet in respect of young people, CE-IAG and access to learning provision. There is a degree of inter-dependence between schools and LAs in meeting those commitments.
- 5.2 Section 29 of the Education Act 2011 placed schools under a statutory duty to secure careers guidance for their pupils in Years 9-11. To fulfil their statutory responsibilities, careers guidance under this duty must:
- be presented in an independent and impartial manner
 - include a full range of post-16 education or training options, including Apprenticeships
 - promote the best interests of the pupils to whom it is given

- 5.3 The Act took effect from September 2012. From September 2013 the duty was extended down to Year 8 (ages 12/13) and up to Year 13 (ages 17/18). The duty was reviewed in March 2013 with a further revision to the Statutory Guidance (“Careers guidance and inspiration in schools”) issued in 2014 and revised once more in March 2015. Heads, school staff and Governing Bodies should have due regard to this statutory guidance in exercising their functions under this section.
- 5.4 Connexions provides an independent and impartial Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) and support service to young people aged 13-19 years (and up to the age of 25 for young people with special education needs) to enable schools to meet their statutory responsibilities under the Education Act 2011.
- 5.5 The service is quality assured and achieved the nationally recognised award for the quality of its careers advice and guidance - the Matrix Standard in October 2012. Advisers are all qualified to level 6 and above. This meets the standard set by Government that all schools should abide by when securing a face-to-face careers guidance service for their pupils.
- 5.6 Local Authorities have a duty to track the activity, circumstance, situations and destinations of young people from age 16 to their 20th birth date and report this on a monthly frequency to the Department for Education. This reporting has been undertaken by Connexions services or their equivalents using a prescribed data-system – Client Caseload Information System (CCIS). This duty is contained within the Education & Skills Act 2008, Section 68.

‘make available to young persons and relevant young adults for whom it is responsible such services as it considers appropriate to encourage, enable or assist the effective participation of those persons in education or training’

The Act defines young people as those below the age of 20, and LAs are required to provide such services as they consider appropriate to fulfil this duty with regard to young people resident in their area.

6. Advantages of a single-point IAG provider.

- 6.1 The current Career-Learning landscape is complex and, arguably, confused. There are a number of projects, programmes and activities being delivered in schools, funded from a range of sources. There is little, however, that is advice and guidance based and that offers young people and schools long term stability or consistency.
- 6.2 The advantages of a single-point, locally managed and delivered, Guidance Service for young people are many. The current service provided in North Tyneside by ‘Connexions’ achieves a number of outcomes:
- Underpins the ‘Ready for Work and Life’ ambitions for our young people
 - Realises high levels of Participation in Learning from 16 upwards (Participation rate for Year 16 -18’s = 88.8% in North Tyneside compared to the England rate of 83.9%)
 - Minimises levels of NEET in the borough to lowest in the region and below the national average (NEET school leaver rate of 0.9% for North Tyneside in Activity Survey; 16 -18 rate of NEET of 3.8% in North Tyneside compared to All England rate of 4.3% and a North East rate of 5.3%).

- Engages with all of the learning and training sector in its widest form and provides referral and placing into opportunities
- Ensures that young people have access to their own named adviser at all times from the age of 13 upwards and are fully supported at each stage of transition
- Provides intelligence about the future ambitions and the choices our young people make and how this equates with the Employment and Skills demands within the borough and the region.

7. Getting Ready for Work and Life.

7.1 In addition to the careers advice and guidance delivered by Connexions for which some 9000 guidance interventions with pupils and students were completed in schools alone last year, the Employment and Skills service collectively engages with schools to support a wide range of career-learning both in school and beyond. Examples include:

- 1600+ Work Experience Placements a year through the Connexions Hub Service.
- Two schools mentored throughout an 18 month period to the point of achieving a nationally recognised Quality Award for their Careers in School programme.
- 100% of the school leaver population had their 'September Guarantee' commitment of an appropriate 'Offer of Learning' made to them.
- 99.1% of last year's school leaver cohort continued to Participate in Education, Employment or Training after leaving school.
- Delivery of a Schools into Work programme engaging over 85 businesses in a range of activities to raise awareness of work in Primary and Secondary schools
- Delivery of an Alternative Education (Vocational Choices) programme supporting 125 young people each year at risk of disengaging from the curriculum
- Management of a Labour Market Information Portal for the North East (www.labourmarketnortheast.co.uk) providing schools and other partners with information and intelligence on the local labour market
- Development of a suite of 'Get Into' courses that provide young people with a taster in a range of sectors including retail, construction, energy and offshore, care, hospitality, IT and Contact Centres.
- During National Apprenticeship Week we issue a full programme of activities that includes providing speakers in schools, Apprenticeship registration for students and our "Get Up & Go – Apprenticeship Fair" that attracts hundreds of young people and their parents/carers each year.

8. Appendices

Nil.