

Shaping Futures Briefing

UK Government Careers Strategy: *making the most of everyone's skills and talents* (Dec 2017)

On 4 December 2017, the **Department for Education** published a strategy for improving careers guidance in schools.

The [strategy](#) aims to achieve significant improvements in careers education and guidance in schools via:

- Setting out a number of key priorities (e.g. that all schools and colleges have a high-quality careers programme; providing opportunities for **work experience**; **tailored support for students**; and use of **information about jobs and careers** to connect the world of education and employment)
- An ambition for every young person to be presented with two choices after the age of 16: **an academic route**, traditionally via A levels and university, leading to graduate jobs, and **a technical route** for those seeking to gain the technical knowledge and skills (linked curriculum reform to create T-Levels from 2020)
- A new co-ordinating role for the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) from September 2018 to support schools to **embed the 8 Gatsby benchmarks (p19) of careers good practice** including via employer-school links and
- Putting **employers at the centre of the careers programme**, ensuring young people receive tailored advice about the training routes and work experience needed to secure a successful career in the future

Higher Education (HE)

The strategy:

- Re-confirms **government support for HE institutions to continue working with schools and their pupils to inspire them to go on to higher education** (including via their Access and Participation Plans to be agreed with the new Office for Students)
- States that HE outreach activity overall should include interventions that raise attainment, such as supporting curriculum programmes and formally sponsoring or establishing schools
- Endorses NCOP collaborations (including Shaping Futures) work in **linking HE institutions, colleges, and schools to support disadvantaged students to enter HE** (including **the important role of careers information, advice, and guidance in this support**)

Specific Initiatives / Requirements on Schools

- **Careers Hubs** - £5m of government funding to the CEC to set up 20 careers hubs across the country in areas judged to be most in need that will “link schools and colleges with local universities and employers to help broaden pupils’ horizons”
- **Careers Leads** - The strategy recommends that every school and college should appoint a careers leader to oversee careers education in schools and £4million has been made available for training
- **Employer engagement** – expectation on secondary schools for every pupil to have “at least one meaningful interaction with businesses every year”, with a particular focus on **STEM** (science, technology, engineering and maths) employers. By 2020, it is expected that Schools should offer every young person seven encounters with employers - at least one each year from years 7 to 13 – **with support from the CEC**. Some of these encounters should be with STEM employers and could include encounters with people who are self-employed and working for themselves, reflecting the growing number of freelancers in the workforce
- The need to **further encourage females into STEM** is also highlighted
- Schools must also give providers of **technical education** and **apprenticeships** the opportunity to talk to all pupils (and about T-Levels when implemented)
- Beyond HE & secondary schools policy, the strategy also dedicates £2m to engaging primary school children in disadvantaged areas in careers activities and pledges to create better careers advice for adults via the National Careers Service.