

Lancashire Youth Council

Report on Careers Advice and Guidance Provision to 14-16
year olds in Lancashire - to Education Scrutiny Committee

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Introduction

Lancashire Youth Council was recently approached by County Councillor Dereli, Chair of the Education Scrutiny Committee, to develop a working relationship between the Lancashire Youth Council Executives and the Education Scrutiny Committee of Lancashire County Council.

As a result of this meeting, we were asked to prepare a report on the careers advice and guidance provision delivered to young people in Lancashire, who are in mandatory education. We asked our executive representatives to research the provision of careers advice and guidance to young people in their districts. This report endeavours to highlight the similarities and differences across Lancashire schools. We will also highlight some recommendations in how careers advice could be improved in Lancashire for the better.

Similarities in Provision

All districts report that the following are all examples of careers advice endeavours, provided to young people across the county:

- 1) Young people receive careers advice and guidance through enrichment days (i.e. PSHE days, Citizenship)
- 2) Most careers advice and guidance is dependent on outside agencies such as YPS Targeted Youth Support, delivering careers advice and guidance in schools. This varies the content of enrichment.
- 3) Job Fayres: of which employers, further education providers and apprenticeship providers are in attendance. Districts report that young people feel that this gives them face to face contact with these organisations - which allows for young people to get appropriate advice and guidance.
- 4) School Liaison Programmes are run by further education providers who will go into schools and advice young people on post-16 options i.e. types of courses , requirements and progression at parents evenings, or option evenings.
- 5) Since the loss of the statutory provision for IAG, Connexions, very few schools have a dedicated careers worker on a full time basis.
- 6) Districts identify that young people would see a vast improvement in careers guidance services if they had dedicated workers providing full time support. This information therefore suggests a gap in the provision of careers guidance for students in secondary school and further education (with further education providing quality careers advice and guidance for 16-19 year olds).
- 7) Overall, districts report that careers advice and guidance is inconsistent throughout schools in Lancashire.
- 8) We found no evidence of difference, either positive or negative in careers advice and guidance within local authority schools and academies.

Having identified the similarities above; the LYC executives have then gone onto identify the major differences in careers advice and guidance provision.

Differences in Provision

- 1) Young people have commented on the fact that it is almost like a lottery depending on where they live and which school they attend as to how much careers advice is given and the quality of such advice.
- 2) There is a combination of the types of advice and guidance and delivery of this advice to young people such as some schools having full time careers advisors and some schools having very little careers advice.
- 3) Some schools only dedicate one session within the entire academic year, to careers advice and guidance, other young people are expected to use their 'initiative' to gain the correct careers advice and guidance. On the contrary, some schools have intensive careers plans from year 7-11 with a full curricula of career focused topics.
- 4) Some schools offer work experience to young people, others do not .
- 5) Some districts report that they only have one careers advisor who provides careers and guidance for the whole district, to young people.
- 6) One district has a Job Junction, that is open to all schools.
- 7) Another district offers low attainers the chance to get practical experience through the local college.
- 8) Districts also report that job advisors are only exclusive to "struggling students", the use of "challenge weeks" which are focused around careers, talks in citizenship lessons and trips to local businesses.

Recommendations for Improvements

The Lancashire Youth Council strongly believes that the provision of careers advice and guidance should be of a high quality throughout the district. At present, the youth council is failing to see consistency around the county. In order to combat this and ensure that all young people are able to access high quality careers advice and guidance, we would strongly suggest the following recommendations to improve careers advice and guidance vastly:

- 1) There is a lot more emphasis on local businesses to deliver talks to students about career pathways.
- 2) More one to one support for all young people in terms of careers advice and guidance.
- 3) Young people receive advice on grades required to access further education courses, university courses, careers and jobs - including specific qualifications required.
- 4) More provision online to support careers advice and guidance.