



Lancashire Skills and Employment Board

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Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) activity in Lancashire.

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Executive Summary

This paper provides an overview of the mapping exercise of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) activity in Lancashire.

Recommendation

The board are asked to note the contents of the report and support the establishment of a Lancashire wide CEIAG forum.

1 Background

- 1.1 The National Careers Service, overseen by the Manchester Growth Company in the North West and Staffordshire, are currently overseeing the 'Careers Inspiration Agenda' across the area. This includes employment of a Careers Inspiration Co-ordinator in each of the LEP areas. In Lancashire, the Co-ordinator is co-located with the Lancashire Skills Hub.
- 1.2 The research undertaken to develop the Lancashire Skills and Employment Framework identified that there were issues in relation to CEIAG activity in schools and consistency. Dr Michele-Lawty-Jones, Skills Hub Director for Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership requested that a mapping of the Information, Advice and Guidance and related activity in Lancashire was undertaken by the Co-ordinator.
- 1.3 The research was undertaken by desktop investigation, but mainly via a series of interviews with 24 individuals representing 20 separate organisations active in CEIAG in the county.

2. The CEIAG picture in Lancashire

- 2.1 The Via Partnership are one of the largest providers of CEIAG services in the county historically; they recently confirmed CEIAG activity for the 2015/16 academic year in numerous schools – the majority of these being in Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen.
- 2.2 Lancashire has a large number of independent careers advisers working in schools. Some work at a single school which raises issues of impartiality (for example, in schools with sixth form provision) whilst others work at two or more schools. One adviser spoken to worked in a total of 5 different schools. Others have set up small companies to bring a number together e.g. Careers Nav.
- 2.3 There are a number of other priced options which while not offering traditionally delivered CEIAG are offering valuable services to the employability and inspiration agendas. Some of these are the Business in the Community Business Class model; Young Chamber; the Young Enterprise programme, supported by the Federation of Small Businesses; Learn Live UK; the Job Junction and other short term initiatives to promote apprenticeships e.g. Chamber events and Interserve promoting apprenticeships in schools.
- 2.4 Colleges and learning providers also provide CEIAG as part of their recruitment processes and this is free to schools.
- 2.5 Universities via the Cumbria and Lancashire Network for Collaborative Outreach are beginning to develop programmes to work with young people in areas and institutions with little or no history of progression to higher education, supporting the widening participation agenda. Their services are free.
- 2.6 STEMFirst are also very active in the county with over 840 ambassadors, who offer their time for free. STEMFirst co-ordinate activity between the schools and the ambassadors, with view to each school benefiting from 3 interventions.
- 2.7 There are also some inspirational teachers who have established their own robust careers education programmes with strong emphasis on the involvement of local employers.

3. New developments

- 3.1 The LEP has been successful in its bid to the Careers and Enterprise Company for an Enterprise Adviser Network led by an Enterprise Co-ordinator. A pilot is planned from January – August focusing on Blackburn with Darwen and Burnley, working with the 2 business networks (HIVE and the Burnley Bondholders).

3.2 Lancashire is likely to be a pathfinder area for DWP and JCP and the deployment of Job Centre Plus staff to work collaboratively in schools to improve the knowledge of opportunities within the local labour market and employability skills, targeting young people at risk of NEET.

4. Next Steps

4.1 In common with the rest of England Lancashire has a fragmented and varied delivery of CEIAG with some areas having little or no activity at all. The Inspiration Agenda needs to be targeted at these areas, working alongside the Enterprise Co-ordinator.

4.2 It is recommended that a CEIAG Lancashire Forum is established which draws together, in the first instance, the Careers Inspiration work, the Enterprise Adviser Network and the JCP Pathfinder, with view to drawing in more CEIAG providers and encouraging co-ordination and collaboration across Lancashire.