

2015/25

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Pocket Watch – Stepping up careers guidance?

Introduction

It's been the subject of numerous reports and a cause of concern for some time but careers guidance for schools and colleges may be about to pick up a bit with the launch of a new network of Enterprise Advisers intended to join up schools, colleges, young people and the world of work a bit better. The scheme has been put together by the Careers and Enterprise Company which has been working with LEPs on the details for some time. The scheme, let alone the Company, have not received a lot of attention so far so here's a brief outline.

What is the Careers and Enterprise Company?

It describes itself as "*an employer-led organisation set up to help inspire and prepare young people for the fast-changing world of work.*" It was actually formally announced in a statement by the Education Secretary last December in response to the clamour of concern about the lack of good careers guidance for young people. It was granted £20m seed corn funding to get started and became fully incorporated in February this year. It is independent of government and its official status is as one of the new breeds of community interest companies that were created in 2005 to support social enterprise

What's the Company's remit?

A key word is connectivity: connecting schools and colleges with the world of work and connecting young people with local employers, in essence using best practice and local 'intelligence' to support and help young people. Brokerage is key but using employers to help inspire and inform young people is seen as equally important

So what is this Enterprise Advisers network?

It's an employer engagement scheme which as indicated, has been developed over recent months across the country in close partnership with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). The aim is to use business volunteers, who will be supported by full-time Co-ordinators, to work closely with groups of local schools and colleges helping perhaps with job tips, application advice, work experience opportunities, insights into the world of work and generally as the phrase goes, '*joining up the dots.*' The scheme will roll out in three stages covering 28 areas (listing [here](#)) this month, with further waves by the end of this year and early next year

What else has the Company got planned?

It intends to launch an Investment Fund this autumn to support further activities and development and is also working on a student-owned digital enterprise passport as well as developing a 'what works' research base

How can I find out more?

Brief details can be found on the Company's [website](#)



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