

Local authorities and the future of careers national policy

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

Significant changes are being made to national careers policy which will impact on local authorities' existing statutory duties and their new duty to support the Raising of the Participation Age, which is now one year off. This paper captures the main issues for Members to discuss and agree further steps for LGA action. This work forms a key strand of the LGA's Hidden Talents campaign, which is jointly developed by the Children and Young People and Economy and Transport Boards.

Recommendations

Members are asked to discuss the developments highlighted in the paper, and agree recommendations to highlight local authority work to help schools take on their new careers duty (**paragraph 4**), influence the National Careers Service (**paragraph 7**), and work with our member authorities in the lead up to their new duty to Raise the Participation Age (**paragraph 9**).

Action

Officers to take forward members' recommendations, and keep Board members updated on developments.

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Schools duty to provide Careers Guidance

1. The Department for Education (DfE) is finalising statutory guidance for schools on their new duty to secure Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) for Year 9-11 pupils, effective from September 2012. It will be published by the end of January, but reviewed in May to consider consultation outcomes to extend the age range of the duty from Years 8-13. This is an important new feature in the future direction of careers policy. There has been anxiety across the education sector about how this will work in practice. The guidance is therefore crucial in helping schools secure sufficient, independent, and expert provision.
2. Local authorities continue to have a legal obligation to encourage, enable and assist the participation of young people in education or training (s.68 of the Education and Skills Act 2008), and to young adults assessed as having learning difficulties and/or disabilities, up to the age of 25 (s.139a of the Learning and Skills Act 2000) and those not in education, employment or training (through the Early Intervention Grant).
3. The LGA responded to DfE's draft guidance sent to CYP lead members. The main points are:
 - 3.1. We welcome the fact that DfE has listened to concerns that 'most, if not all, young people', should benefit from individual, face-to-face careers guidance, not just those who are disadvantaged, or those with special educational needs (SEN) or disabilities, as previously proposed.
 - 3.2. Reference is strengthened so that schools must [rather than should] work with local authorities to support them recording young people's post 16 plans i.e. intended destinations, offer status, and also at an early stage to identify pupils at risk of NEET. Effective partnership is imperative if schools and local authorities are to fulfil current and new duties.
 - 3.3. Access to IAG for pupils with SEN requires expert advice on process and availability of provision, and is dependent on additional support or equipment within an education/training establishment or workplace.
 - 3.4. Local authorities, in their role to work with a broad range of providers on the local learning offer, and their role on Local Enterprise Partnerships

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should be considered in the section on schools' relationship with learning providers.

- 3.5. It is useful that a revised Matrix kite mark will assure quality of external providers of careers guidance deployed in schools.
4. The Association of School and College Leaders and Association of Colleges are developing a 'how to guide' on the duty. The LGA intends to source examples capturing local authorities' work to support schools in their new duty by offering careers guidance services for schools to purchase, supporting them in the commissioning process to quality assure potential providers, or providing them with list of potential providers. This will build on the examples from the LGA/DfE careers transition summit in 2011. **Members will be updated on progress.**

National Careers Service

5. The National Careers Service (NCS), fully operational by April 2012, will replace the Next Steps service, and provide face to face guidance for adults. Local authorities will be responsible for young people not in education since they will not receive CEIAG in schools, but may arrive at the NCS seeking support. The Skills Funding Agency assures us that NCS contractors have effective links with local authorities to signpost young people to them, however the LGA is seeking more detail on how this will operate and how referral numbers will be recorded.
6. To oversee the NCS, a high level National Council for Careers (NCC) is being established by April 2012. It will meet four times a year, and advise Ministers on overall national careers policy – young people and adults. **If Members agree, officers can pursue discussions regarding LGA representation on the NCC and suggest a sub group on signposting, given the importance to local authorities' RPA duty.**

Raising the Participation Age (RPA) regulations

7. The Education and Skills Act 2008 raises the participation age to 17 from 2013 and until their 18th birthday from 2015 for young people to continue in education or training either through full-time education (school, college or home education); work-based learning (Apprenticeship) or part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering for more than 20 hours a week. The Act specifies that local authorities must promote the fulfilment of that duty. This is in addition to local authorities existing duties to:
 - 7.1. encourage, enable or assist young people's participation in education or training;

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- 7.2. track young people's learning paths, and secure a suitable offer of education or training for 16 and 17 year olds;
 - 7.3. assist the most vulnerable young people, and those at risk of becoming not engaged in education, employment and training (NEET).
8. On 20 January, DfE will issue a three month consultation on how RPA will work in practice. It is expected to cover definitions of: residency; full-time education; and work, which once combined with part-time study, can be considered as participation. Legislation allows for local authorities to fine employers for not fulfilling their obligations, so DfE will consult on the amount and use of any revenue. Post consultation, DfE will publish a consultation response (end July), publish guidance (September) and put in place regulations in the latter half of 2012, to be laid before Parliament in early 2013. **Officers will summarise the consultation, seek views and respond.**
 9. Local authorities must provide for sufficient places for 16-19 year olds. The Young Peoples Learning Agency recognises that lagged learner funding model may result in 2012/2013 gaps, so requested in November that local authorities apply to YPLA for additional placements to be funded. It will be responding to local authority requests in January.
 10. A DfE organised **RPA - Are you Ready?** event on 7 February will launch the consultation and bring together organisations involved in RPA delivery including councils, schools, colleges, other providers, employers, and the voluntary and community sectors. Speakers include Tim Loughton MP, Matt Dunkley (DCS of East Sussex) and Cllr John Merry.
 11. DfE has issued a call for expressions of interest (Eoi) for its **fourth, and final phase of RPA trials** to go live on 1 April. Open to local authorities or organisations working in partnership with them, the pilots will develop and test local RPA arrangements, build on existing planning and good practice, align with area-wide RPA plans, and share learning across a wide range of other areas. 40 projects will be funded each receiving around £75,000. Areas are invited to take part in one of three categories:
 - 11.1. new areas that have not yet delivered an RPA project;
 - 11.2. existing areas to 'buddy' each other to offer challenge and support;
 - 11.3. existing areas to lead programmes of support to new areas.
 12. The Board Chair has written to DfE Ministers responsible for RPA, careers, and the recently announced £150 million available to help young people who are NEET to seek a discussion on ways to develop a joint approach during 2013.

Destination Measures

13. DfE is developing two learner destinations measures at the end of Key Stage 4 (GCSE or equivalent) and Key Stage 5 (two years of post- compulsory education for students aged 16-18, or at sixth form) for 17 and 18 year olds, to show the destinations of all young people the year after they leave school or their post-16 provider. They are designed to publish information as part of Performance Tables in May, ensure pupils in school are receiving CEIAG, help raise post-16 participation and reduce NEETs.
14. KS4 and KS5 destination measure data is being tested in two local areas (Kingston upon Thames and Gateshead) to check if findings from national data check out at the local level. The destination measures will be developed in two phases. Phase one, published in May 2012, will track education destinations into further and higher education or work based learning. Phase two, published in spring 2013, will include more complex employment destinations. DfE will delay KS5 until employment destinations are available.
15. DfE will publish annual data on the proportion of 16 and 17 year olds receiving a suitable learning offer under the September Guarantee in 2011 by local authority. In March, it will publish annual data on the proportion of young people who were not in education, employment or training by local authority including more detailed data than in previous years (reakdown by age at 16, 17 and 18).

Hidden Talents Campaign

16. Against a background of high youth unemployment and changes to funding and institutional landscape affecting young people, lead members of this Board and the Economy and Transport Board agreed to a joint Hidden Talents campaign. It will focus on councils' role in improving services to young people from early years to young adulthood and emphasise the importance of place.
17. Officers are taking forward actions to get the campaign underway which includes NFER commissioned work on breaking down youth participation statistics and the variation between places; events including a Youth Summit in February, and an LGA event on the future role of councils in pre and post 16 education on 20 March; and a publication launched at LGA Annual Conference in June setting out our recommended solution to improve the current system.
Members will be updated on progress.