



PRESS NOTICE: 8th March 2017

Quality Assuring Careers Education And Guidance: National Licensing

Dr Barrie Hopson, Chair of the Quality in Careers Consortium, announces that from 13th March 2017 there will be a new and simpler model of quality assurance for careers education, information, advice and guidance in England:

“Since 2012 our Consortium has been responsible for national validation of England’s 12 dedicated CEIAG quality awards – ensuring they all assessed and accredited CEIAG to the same standards in schools, colleges and work-based learning.

*I’m delighted to confirm that we have reached a ground-breaking agreement with the 12 current providers of CEIAG quality awards. They will now cease awarding their individually-named award, and will each become **Licensed Awarding Bodies** for the single national CEIAG quality award to be known everywhere as **‘The Quality in Careers Standard’**.*

Just as school and college leaders are accustomed to choosing which examination body to choose from, for example in respect of GCSEs and ‘A’ levels, so now they will be able to choose from a number of Licensed Awarding Bodies for the single national CEIAG quality award – the Quality in Careers Standard.

I wish to pay tribute to the leaders of the 12 current providers of awards for their readiness to enter into this greatly simplified national system.

Already over 1100 schools, colleges and work-based learning providers have achieved or are working towards a CEIAG quality award. This includes 30% of England’s state secondary schools and sixth form colleges. All award holders will be reclassified as holding the Quality in Careers Standard, and our shared task is to convince the other 70% to join us in this mission to ensure that every young person receives careers education and guidance of the quality of the best.

The 12 Licensed Awarding Bodies have a collective team of over 100 qualified expert CEIAG assessors, a field force unparalleled.

We are also grateful for the support of the Department for Education in these moves. The Department has welcomed our new regime. We are hopeful that the Minister (Robert Halfon) will soon not only strengthen the Statutory Guidance to schools on the fulfilment of their duty to secure access to independent careers guidance for their students (he already ‘recommends’ they achieve a quality award), but that he will also provide some financial

support to every school to achieve and maintain the Quality in Careers Standard in the future.

Every young person deserves the best possible support in gaining the knowledge, skills and confidence to take control of their learning and working career pathways. Our newly simplified national Quality in Careers Standard provides the means to turn this aspiration into reality.”

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS: further details are available from Paul Chubb, Quality in Careers Director 07976 575536 pac@qualityincareers.org.uk www.qualityincareers.org.uk

1. The Quality in Careers Consortium owns the Quality in Careers Standard. The Consortium involves the four leading learning provider associations (Association of Colleges, Association of Employment & Learning Providers, Association of School and College Leaders, and the National Association of Head Teachers) alongside the Career Development Institute and Careers England.
2. The Parliamentary Question leading to the announcement of the new licensing arrangements was asked on 1st March by Rishi Sunak MP: Written question – 66133 *To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what progress has been made on simplifying, clarifying and rationalising the quality awards system for careers education, information and guidance in England's schools.*
3. It was answered by: Robert Halfon on: 06 March 2017
The Government recommends that all secondary schools should work towards a quality award for careers education, information, advice and guidance as an effective means of carrying out a self-review and external evaluation of the school's careers programme. This is stated in the statutory guidance for schools, which underpins their duty to secure independent careers guidance. The national validation, the Quality in Careers Standard, ensures that each of the awards is of the same national standard and assists schools to determine an appropriate quality award to pursue.
The Sub-Committee on Education, Skills and the Economy carried out an inquiry into careers education, information, advice and guidance at the end of 2016 and recommended that Government should encourage the bringing together of the twelve different awards recognised by the Quality in Careers Standard into a single award.
The Government welcomes recent work, led by the Quality in Careers Consortium Board, to simplify the awards. The Board has reached agreement with the current 12 independent awarding organisations to migrate from national validation to a simpler National Licensing system. The 12 award providers will cease to award their individually named award. They will become Licensed Awarding Bodies for the single national careers quality award which will use the copyright brand, “The Quality in Careers Standard”.

4. From 13th March 2017, the **Licensed Awarding Bodies** for the single national CEIAG quality award, the **Quality in Careers Standard**, will be:

1. *Cambridgeshire County Council - Investing in Quality*
janet.harris@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

2. *Career Connect:* kath.wyke@careerconnect.org.uk

3. *Career Mark (Complete Careers LLP):* nationally available throughout England
john.ambrose@complete-careers.com

4. *C & K Careers:* Calderdale, Kirklees and other areas within Yorkshire & Humber and the NE of England: jill.ellis@ckcareers.org.uk

5. *Essex County Council:* Essex, Peterborough, Southend & Thurrock
tracy.eve@essex.gov.uk

6. *Future Focus (Entrust Education):* Staffordshire
shaun.riley@entrust-ed.co.uk

7. *Inspiring IAG (Positive Steps on behalf of the Greater Manchester Local Authorities)* available across Greater Manchester, West Cheshire, Chester, Cumbria, Lancashire and parts of North East England inspiringiag@positive-steps.co.uk

8. *Investor in Careers (CSW Group)* nationally available in many parts of England:
verity.french@cswwgroup.co.uk

9. *Prospects Services*: nationally in many areas of England and Northern Ireland:
sue.thacker@prospects.co.uk

10. *Sheffield City Region Careers (Sheffield Futures)*:
dawn.hodgkinson@sheffieldfutures.org.uk

11. *Stoke on Trent City Council*: kelly.meir@stoke.gov.uk

In addition we are working with a potential 12th Licensed Awarding Body: *Humber LEP* principally covering the 4 Local Authority areas of the Humber sub-region:
p.harrison@humberlep.org