

## **National Careers Council update following the meeting on 14 January 2013**

The National Careers Council met on 14 January to undertake further work on the formal report to Matthew Hancock MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Skills . Dr Deirdre Hughes, OBE, Chair, noted excellent progress had been made by Council in gathering robust intelligence from a wide range of UK public, private and voluntary/community sector bodies, including career development practitioners. The Skills Funding Agency, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Department for Education (DfE), Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and UK Commission for Employment & Skills (UKCES) joined the Council to review existing careers policies and future possibilities.

The Council has invited a wide range of organisations and individuals to feed in their views to inform its first paper to Government. Work is also well underway to capture evidence on high performing careers systems at a UK, European Union and international level. **The first report of the National Careers Council will be presented to the Skills Minister in May 2013.**

The Council formally welcomed **Neil Carberry** and **Trudy Norris-Grey** as new members from industry appointed by the Skills Minister.

**Neil Carberry** is Director for Employment and Skills at the CBI and campaigns on behalf of its members on labour markets and skills issues.

Neil commented "improving advice and guidance on career options is a vital part of ensuring we make the most of the talent of Britain's people. I look forward to working with the NCC to make a real difference on this vital issue."

**Trudy Norris-Grey** brings a wealth of experience: she is a well known and experienced leader in the technology sector including Chair of Women into Science and Engineering (WISE).

Trudy commented "Providing world-class careers advice that is also dynamic and forward-looking will help ensure the UK competes well on a global stage. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the NCC in delivering against this very important goal."

The National Careers Service Prime Contractors have also met with the Council to share their ideas and experiences at which three key questions were considered:

1. What should be the strategic vision for a National Careers Service in England between now and 2018?
2. What would be the characteristics of a high performing National Careers service linked to businesses and the wider careers support market?
3. What compelling evidence is available on the social and economic returns on investment for careers work to help inform discussions with HM Treasury?

The latest report from the *'Education Select Committee: Careers Guidance Inquiry'* put the spotlight firmly on young people having access to good quality independent and impartial careers guidance. Clearly, there is significant potential and opportunities for improvements to be made to current and future arrangements.

Dr Hughes highlighted "The Council has made a strong commitment to setting out a future strategic vision for the National Careers Service and wider careers support market. We all know this generation of young people and adults face tough competition for jobs and the balance of occupations in the economy is rapidly changing. A simple careers system is required which helps people make well informed and realistic career decisions. We look forward to rising to the challenge of systems thinking and what this might look like now and in the future.

For further information about the National Careers Council please contact:  
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For further details on the Council's work - visit:<https://www.gov.uk/the-national-careers-council>