

## **Statement by Dr Deirdre Hughes, OBE, Chair, on behalf of the National Careers Council, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012**

The National Careers Council held its third meeting at the UK Commission for Employment & Skills (UKCES) Headquarters on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

In view of the recent Cabinet and Ministerial reshuffle it was noted that special tributes were sent to John Hayes from within and across the education and employment sectors for his significant contribution in the ongoing development of careers services for young people and adults.

The Council now looks forward to meeting with Matthew Hancock, the new Skills Minister, to discuss departmental development plans relevant to the Council's work and to clarify key priorities over the coming weeks and months.

Between July and September, the Council members and associates have been undertaking detailed work that has fed into the following Parliamentary Reviews:

1. Lord Heseltine's Review
2. Doug Richard Review of Apprenticeships
3. Education and Select Committee: Careers Guidance Inquiry.

The Heseltine Team has kindly granted permission for the Council's submitted paper to be made openly available to interested parties – see attached for further information.

In response to enquiries about the Council's ongoing work, informal meetings and discussions have taken place with around 40 organisations from the careers, education and employment sectors. We are gathering very useful data from various sources, and will continue to do so, to inform and support our ongoing dialogue with the new Skills Minister, Matthew Hancock, and other interested parties.

Some examples of progress to date include:

### *Work Strand 1: Access, quality and professionalism*

Intelligence gathering on young people and adults' access to the National Careers Service and wider careers support market is well underway with the Skills Funding Agency and other key informants. Also, we are currently looking outside of England to review existing and new models of interesting policies and practices that will inform our ongoing work. Council is extremely grateful to organisations and individuals who have kindly volunteered their views and findings via the NCC webpage and we are currently following up on relevant leads. The application of quality frameworks and their impact, particularly in schools, is of particular interest. Also, the role of professional associations in achieving the vision set out in the Careers Profession Taskforce (2010) is of particular interest.

In the coming months, Council will be undertaking the following:

- Developing model(s)/prototype(s) for careers provision that take account of presenting access issues and adopt a solution-focused local and national approach.
- Meeting with OfSTED, employers and users of the National Careers Service and wider careers support market.
- Reviewing progress made by the new Career Development Institute and Institute for Employability Practitioners (IEP) and reflecting on issues for Government; professional associations and employers.

*Work Strand 2: National Careers Service and its connectivity to business and the wider careers support market*

A key feature within the Council's work is to identify ways of further strengthening existing careers provision. Labour market intelligence and information that connects individuals to learning and work opportunities is of significant relevance within fast changing local, regional and national economies. The UK Commission for Employment & Skills and the Skills Funding Agency have worked closely with Council to share their findings and we are learning more about new technologies in this regard.

- Council members and associates are meeting informally with some leading employers to identify possibilities and future perspectives for high quality and high performing careers provision.

*Work Strand 3: Intelligence, innovation and impact*

- Development work on the added-value social and economic returns on investment in the National Careers Service and wider careers support market is well underway. Council plans to draw upon relevant compelling evidence and impact data in this regard.

The next Council meeting is scheduled to be held in January 2013. The Council will develop a more detailed work plan, following further discussion with the Skills Minister, and plans to involve other interested parties in its work, where appropriate.

It is extremely heartening to find that so many organisations and individuals have made contact with us in writing and via email. These range from careers sector organisations and alliances to leading UK industries. We have also been contacted by individual careers advisers and managers who have ideas and expertise to contribute. Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Dr Deirdre Hughes, OBE  
Chair  
National Careers Council

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