

Skills Advisory Panel and Board – 11th February meeting
Item 3, Annex 2: Careers News, Dorset LEP - Employer Advisors Network (EAN) and Careers Hub update

Date: 2 February 2020
Helen Stevenson – Dorset Careers Hub Lead

**‘CEC Closing the Gap – Employer Engagement in England’s schools and colleges’,
publication date – January 21st 2020, Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC)**

The CEC have analysed data from 4000 schools and colleges and told us that 4 out of 5 young people now leave school or college having met with employers and 2 out of 3 have had experiences of the workplace. The efforts of employers have ensured the gap between those who do and those who don’t meet employers has been reduced by nearly half in the last 18 months.

The CEC recognise that although this is a significant improvement the journey to give every young person an experience of the workplace is still very much on-going. They point to a significant variance between different geographical areas and between the age groups that access employer encounters. They are clear that there is more work to do to enable younger people aged 11-14 and all young people, from all areas, to meet employers.

Closing the Gap aims to pinpoint these gaps in vital careers learning by providing sharper data and focused support. The important work done by the CEC Enterprise Advisors Network and local Careers Leaders is foundational in achieving the goal of full coverage for all young people regardless of age or location.

Dorset LEP works very closely with employers, both councils, schools and the CEC to ensure this work happens in our local areas. With our partners we have established a Careers Hub to better understand and support any unevenness in workplace experiences careers opportunities across our county.

One of the CEC’s methods for improving employer engagement is to recruit Cornerstone employers that make a commitment to support the agenda locally. We are proud in Dorset to have a number of dedicated employers supporting the Dorset Careers Hub. During the spring term, the group will begin collaborating to develop projects and take responsibility to raising the profile of the employers’ role in offering workplace encounters.

Dorset LEP welcomes the CEC *Closing the Gap* report which demonstrates beyond any doubt the huge impact that employer engagement can have on young people’s experiences and understanding of work. The CEC research shows that this in turn can influence a young person’s confidence to find and secure appropriate and satisfying work or further study.

Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN)

- The pan Dorset EAN has successfully engaged 71 schools and colleges with 54 matched to an Enterprise Adviser
- The network is supported by 3.5 FTE Enterprise Coordinators based in local councils
- The 2019 CEC State of the Nation report sees an average achievement of 3.2 benchmarks achieved across Dorset schools and colleges (September 2019). Updated data from CEC will be available soon to demonstrate performance in the autumn term of 2019.

Dorset Careers Hub - overview

- Dorset continues to deliver the Careers Hub offer which is backed by additional CEC funding and resource, offering enhanced provision to 40 schools and colleges within the EAN
- Careers Hub activity is supported by existing Enterprise Coordinators, a dedicated Hub lead and an additional Enterprise Coordinator to cover Weymouth & Portland
- The Hub will be governed by the Dorset Careers Hub Steering Group which met on the 9 January 2020. See Annex 3.
- Seven local organisations have been recruited to join the Dorset Careers Hub Cornerstone Employer group. We are in dialogue with two other employers who has shown an interest in joining the group. The Cornerstone Employer group will meet four times this academic year and will work collaboratively to support EA recruitment, support school achievement against benchmarks 5 and 6 and contribute to the LMI project.
- Funding has been made available to schools via *Institutional Funding* to support individual schools and *Collaborative Funding* to benefit schools working together in clusters. To date, 34/40 schools have applied for institutional funding with a focus on:
 - Events
 - Careers Champions to develop careers learning across the curriculum
 - Resources / career related materials
 - Equipment/furniture etc for Careers spaces in schools.

Dorset Careers Hub – performance update (updated February 2020)

Average number of benchmarks achieved		
	National	Dorset Careers Hub
End of 2018/19 academic year	3.0	3.0
Target	<i>At least an average of 4 benchmarks fully achieved across all Hub schools and colleges by the end of the 2019-20 academic year</i>	
End of autumn term (2019)*	?	4.5

Dorset Careers Hub achievement - benchmark 5 and 6		
	Benchmark 5 Encounters with employers and employees	Benchmark 6 Experiences of workplaces
Target	<i>75% of Hub institutions fully achieve the benchmark by the end of the 2019-20 academic year</i>	<i>60% of Hub institutions fully achieve the benchmark by the end of the 2019-20 academic year</i>
End of autumn term (2019)*	62.5%	65%

*Data still required from 2 hub schools. Data includes results from most recent assessment.

Dorset Careers Hub – Weymouth and Portland

Dorset LEP successfully bid for additional resource to enhance the funding for the 7 institutions within Weymouth and Portland. This funding is being used as follows:

- Institutional and collaborative funding
- Dedicated EC supporting schools and college
- Industry visits /workplace experiences
- Collaborative Careers event(s)
- Sector events
- Careers Leader mentoring
- Alumni project.