

Employer Engagement Funding Review – Call for Evidence

Please submit any evidence or information that helps to inform or answer any aspects of the questions below by **11 February 2011** to Anthony.Mann@educationandemployers.org.

The Department for Education has asked the Taskforce to manage and coordinate a high-level review estimating the returns on investment for different kinds of employer engagement in education and an assessment of the costs and benefits of different delivery options, in order to inform government policy from April 2012 onwards.

Outcomes

- What is the average return on investment for individual units of different employer engagement activities? How might this average differ for different types of young person or different circumstances? Outcomes will consider how benefits for an individual young person translate into long-term wage returns or reduced cost to the state, e.g. through improved careers awareness, improved motivation and academic performance, as well as benefits for employers in terms of improved staff engagement.

Inputs/investment

- How much is invested, respectively, by central government, discretionary local public sector spending (e.g. by schools or LAs), the third sector and employers in enabling and managing different employer engagement activities? See below for a list of activities in scope. Our core focus is on investment in financial year 2009-10 but details of investment in other years can still be useful, particularly where it can be linked to a estimated quantity of activity delivered. We recognise that activities over an academic year might be funded by investment from different financial years or supported by past investment that created an enabling environment. Please discuss or account for these effects as you see fit in any information submitted.

Outputs

- What level of output does this investment generate, in terms of high-level categories such as the number of work experience placements, the number of short/long enterprise projects etc.? Please note that where outputs can be linked to a specific input amount of resource, we are not limited to a particular year or period of time. Data from any period, with the appropriate context, can be used to determine an estimate and a range for unit costs, although our preference is for activity that has taken place since September 2009.

Options

- How might different delivery approaches or targeting methodologies reduce the costs and maximise the benefits of employer engagement? What are the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches, considering impacts on equity, safeguarding, volume, unit cost, quality/effectiveness? How is this analysis affected by changing policy and economic conditions for 2012 onwards?

Activities in scope

The review covers activity in England, although it acknowledges that useful insight on outcomes and options can be gleaned from projects outside England. The review has an interest in all forms of employer engagement, but with a particular focus on the following subset of activities: work experience, literacy sessions, numeracy sessions, mentoring, enterprise activities, governors and support to careers advice. We are conscious that employer engagement activities are often clustered together, for instance in the delivery of Diplomas or Young Apprenticeships. Evidence on these activities is also welcome, particularly where it can unpack the amount of resource and activity focused specifically around employer input and

the possible significance of that activity. Input is welcome on subject-specific activities, such as STEM or MFL, as well as more general events. Evidence is not limited to national-level funding streams, as insight about funding, activity and impact at the local level would be particularly valuable, even if it is very small scale. Where different funding flows and financing combine to deliver an activity, please describe and quantify these other factors as far as possible.