

Taskforce NEWS

The newsletter of the Education and Employers Taskforce

DECEMBER 2009 | ISSUE 1

Education
AND
Employers
TASKFORCE



Welcome to this first edition of Taskforce News. Through this newsletter, we will keep you up to date on the Taskforce's activities and news of relevance to all of those in the worlds of education and employment who share our vision of every school and college having an effective and sustainable partnership with employers. This will help to provide young people with the inspiration, motivation, knowledge, skills and opportunities they need to achieve their potential.

In this issue you can find out about a £10 million new funding stream to support IAG activity, the National Council for Educational Excellence progress report and the Taskforce's paper 'Defining effective employer engagement'.

The Taskforce launched as an independent charity on the 15th October 2009 to bring together the world of work and education in a spirit of effective collaboration. The Taskforce, though independent, has the backing of the Department for Children, Schools and Families who have granted it initial funding. Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Business Secretary Lord Mandelson and Schools Minister Iain Wright were all present at the launch. Visit: www.educationandemployers.org

We will be publishing our newsletter every two months. If you have an item that you think should be included, get in touch.

Best wishes

Nick Chambers
Taskforce Director

Forthcoming events

Delivering Diplomas: Sustaining Delivery conference

The Delivering Diplomas: Sustaining Delivery conference takes place at Aston University in Birmingham on 18 March 2010. Eighteen months into the delivery of Diplomas, an increasingly vital consideration for all consortia is ensuring that their delivery models are sustainable. The Fifth National Delivering Diplomas conference focuses on this crucial aspect of successful Diploma delivery – sustaining partnerships, engagement and enthusiasm. The event also looks at the individual Diploma components, offering access to best practice advice on topics like IAG, Functional Skills, work experience, additional and specialist learning, and timetabling. The conference is organised by

News

New strategy for young people's information, advice and guidance launched

Quality, Choice and Aspiration – a strategy for young people's information, advice and guidance has been published by DCSF. This strategy has been informed and influenced by the report 'Fair Access to the Professions' www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/media/227102/fair-access.pdf by Alan Milburn and his panel. The plans outlined in this report build on Alan Milburn's report and take forward the majority of the recommendations relevant to IAG. It also builds on the Schools White Paper, which stated that it was both a moral and an economic imperative to ensure every young person turns 18 with the knowledge, skills and qualifications to give them the best chance of success in adult life. Please visit:

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/IAG-Report-v2.pdf>

..... with £10m new funding stream to support IAG activity

To support the aims of the new strategy, Schools Minister Iain Wright MP has invited third sector organisations to bid for a share of up to £10m to raise the aspirations of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds through the fourth round of the Youth Sector Development Fund (YSDF). Bids should demonstrate how young people would be imaginatively shown the full range of options open to them in education and work, such as through "taster sessions" at universities or real experience of different careers. Around 25 third-sector organisations are expected to benefit from the fund, through a mixture of grants and business support, from April 2010 to March 2011. Further information and an application pack for the 4th Round can be found at <http://ysdf.ecotec.com/eoi/yr4application.aspx>

National Council for Educational Excellence (NCEE) progress report

The National Council for Educational Excellence has published its progress report, showing how the Government and council members have collaborated to mobilise businesses, universities and the education sector so that the recommendations of the NCEE published in October 2008, are delivered. As the NCEE winds up its work with the establishment of the Education and Employers Taskforce, key activity being taken forward includes:

- The launch of the Education and Employers Taskforce

The launch of the Institute for Education Business Excellence to drive up quality across the network of EBPOs, including offering the award for Education Business Excellence, leading to delivery of 'Brilliant Brokerage'.

- An offer is in place for the National Challenge schools to take up employer support when they want it from the Taskforce or through the IEBE and its partners
- Primary school case studies are being gathered by Schools Standards Advisers, leading to a publication in February 2010
- OfSTED's review of partnership is underway, to report in June 2010
- Guidance from REACT, based at the LGA, has been issued to Local Authorities referencing the NCEE recommendations and encouraging take up by Local Authorities.
- DCSF Guidance will shortly be issued to Local Authorities about the requirement

Forthcoming events

Delivering Diplomas, the UK's only magazine dedicated to the 14-19 Diploma.

Visit: www.deliveringdiplomas.com/cgi-bin/go.pl/conference

'Promoting the Profession' the first IEBE conference

'Promoting the Profession', the first national conference of the Institute for Education Business Excellence takes place in Birmingham on 11 March 2010. The provision and funding of education-business links are changing and ever tightening public sector finances and an upcoming election will place the world of education and work-related learning in ever sharper focus. This conference will debate how 'brilliant brokers' and quality assured services can respond to these big challenges. Who should attend? Everyone who works in the space between education and business, including: Education Business Partnership Organisations, CSR and education managers in the private sector, local authorities, schools and colleges. For the programme, exhibition and booking information visit: <http://www.iebe.org.uk/index.php/book-conference>



News

for Education Business Partnerships funding and their role in having strategies in place to deliver what schools and learners need.

Visit: www.dcsf.gov.uk/ncee/

Enterprise Village launched

The newly launched Enterprise Village are inviting people to register online for news, events and resources. Enterprise Village is the online component of Enterprise Network providing a one-stop shop for all those with an interest in enterprise education involving children and young people aged 5 to 19. A resource offered is 'The Big 13' intended as a guide for teachers with suggestions on how children and young people's enterprise entitlement can be delivered. To request your copy, please email

enterpriseresources@assatrust.org.uk or visit: www.enterprisevillage.org.uk

'Get enterprising' launches

'Get enterprising' is the official London 2012 enterprise programme for schools and colleges across the UK and is part of the Get Set programme. 'Get enterprising' offers a range of free resources, activity ideas, case studies and examples of best practice which support teachers in delivering exciting enterprise activities. Visit: <http://getset.london2012.com/en/getenterprising>



Taskforce update

Defining effective employer engagement paper unveiled

Without a clear understanding of what is meant by 'effective' employer engagement, it will not be possible for the Taskforce, working with partners, to benchmark current practice and assess if new initiatives, campaigns and communications have any measurable impact on the learning outcomes of young people. This paper sets out the definition that has been developed by the Taskforce, its Partnership Board and Trustees, working with partners including Ofsted, DCSF and the members of the Expert Group on Research. In short, 'effective' engagement is where the cumulative total of partnerships provides an individual school or college with engagement that is broad, impactful, high quality and relevant to institutional circumstances. Ways of capturing data at a national level are explored and areas where data is currently scarce are identified. Finally, a synthesis of the characteristics of successful individual education-employer partnership activities is set out. Visit: www.educationandemployers.org

Expert Working Group on Governance first full meeting

The Expert Working Group on Governance held its first full meeting on 10 December. The group brings together leading professionals, academics and experienced governors to debate and lead the agenda on school governors, identifying areas where the Education and Employers Taskforce can work



through its members to support and develop the work of governors. The group will report in summer 2009 and will focus on two key areas of activity. The first centres on those school governors who are also employed, be they public, private or third sector. Some governors volunteer with the awareness and support of their employers, whereas in other cases the links that governors can make between their school and their world of work may not be fully benefited from. This group will aim to support and develop those links to the benefit of governors, employers, schools and young people. Secondly, the group will make use of the experience it brings together and the learning process of supporting 'employee governors' to develop and inform ongoing policy recommendations around governance more generally.

There is more information available at

<http://www.educationandemployers.org/who-we-are/expert-working-groups/expert-working-group-on-governance.aspx>

The Guides

In October, the Taskforce launched two unique websites – the Employers' Guide to working with Schools and Colleges www.employers-guide.org and the Teachers' Guide to working with Employers www.teachers-guide.org providing comprehensive advice to educationalists and employers on priority areas for partnership, the benefits of collaboration and how to take action. Through the Guides, using the Business in Schools webtool, created by the Edge Foundation, schools and colleges can highlight the areas where they would most welcome employer support and provide details of the individual or broker able to deal with employer requests. Developed with the input from leading partners from the worlds of education and employment, the Guides provide one-stop-shops helping users to initiate and expand partnerships.

Can you help spread the word?

The Education and Employers Taskforce is producing free promotional materials to raise awareness of the Guides. Materials, in the form of leaflets and bookmarks to distribute at employment and education conferences, as inserts in publications and in mail shots to two main audiences (1) school leaders and classroom teachers and (2) employers of all sizes and sectors. If you would like leaflets or bookmarks to distribute to your networks please contact carolglover@educationandemployers.org

Many from the worlds of education and employment will find the Guides to be helpful resources. Below is text that can be cut and pasted into e-bulletins or newsletters. Please feel free to do so! If you'd be interested in a bigger feature, please get in touch with carol.glover@educationandemployers.org.

The Teachers' Guide to working with Employers

www.teachers-guide.org

Designed with partners including the SSAT and NAHT, the Teachers' Guide helps all members of school and college staff to learn about working with employers. The Teachers' Guide provides:



- A one-stop-shop for help with working with employers
- Advice on how to contact employers and establish partnerships
- Guidance that is suitable for all educational establishments
- Comprehensive information on all the methods of working with employers: work experience, mentoring, school sponsorship and more.

The Employers Guide to working with Schools and Colleges

www.employers-guide.org

Designed with partners including BITC, FSB, STEMNET, Edcoms, BCC and the CBI and the Employers' Guide helps employers of all types and sizes to work more closely with schools and colleges. It is a one-stop-shop that helps employers to:

- Initiate or deepen existing relationships, with links to the key organisations that can help
- Understand the real benefits of partnership to their organisation, to schools and to young people
- Access comprehensive and definitive advice on the most effective ways that employers can engage with schools and colleges.

New on The Guides www.the-guides.org

Mentoring case study from Wakefield and District Housing www.employers-guide.org/case-studies/public-sector/wakefield-and-district-housing-association

New on The Guides this month we have new case studies developed with SSAT members to highlight the range of different activities that secondary schools are undertaking with employers to enrich the curriculum, and from the employer perspective, mentoring case study from Wakefield and District Housing (WDH), one of the country's largest housing associations with over 1400 employees managing more than 30,000 properties. WDH has been involved in mentoring young people aged 14-16 in local schools since 2006. An original interest from two members of staff has increased to 30 volunteer mentors from all parts of the organisation. The case study explains how the scheme works for WDH as an employer and highlights the benefits felt by mentors and by participating schools and young people. The mentoring programme is part of a concerted plan to increase the involvement of WDH with local schools. It is a means of increasing understanding among young people, their friends and families of what WDH actually does, building its reputation as an employer.



Five new National Diploma Employer Champions

Five new National Diploma Employer Champions

The Diploma Employer Champions Network has been strengthened by the appointment of five National Champions. They are: Brendon Riley (Chief Executive of IBM UK), James Wates (Vice-chair of Wates), Ren Kapur (Chartered Institute of Marketing), Will Butler-Adams (MD, Brompton Bicycles) Chris Mayer (Chief Executive of HM Courts Service).

The December Diploma Employer Champions Network (DECN) E-bulletin [<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/documents/DECNeBulletinDEC09.pdf>] featuring James Wates, Channel 4 and other Diploma news is now available.

The Network, which currently has 236 members, consists of volunteer champions from a full range of employers of every size and sector across the English regions, including companies like British Gas, BT, Nsure, Microsoft, Q Hotels, Tesco's and Rolls Royce. The Champions are passionate supporters of the Diploma. They undertake promotional activities, for example in the media or conference speaking, and also help channel employers' views to government. Champions have made over 300 media appearances so far.

Visit: www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/decn

Coming soon.....

What is to be gained? published

In the New Year the Education and Employers Taskforce will publish the research paper What is to be gained from partnership? pulling together the conclusions from a wide range of robust evaluations, surveys and research exercises to understand how and why young people benefit from educational activity. It also shows how teaching staff can benefit, and how employers gain by making short-term and long-term recruitment easier, improved staff morale, new opportunities for staff development, and can improve awareness and reputation. A summary will feature in our next newsletter edition.

SSAT / Taskforce Guide for the Classroom Teacher

Due out in January, the Guide for the Classroom Teacher provides a simple step-by-step approach to initiating, developing and sustaining effective relationships with employers.

DCSF Recruiters Guide to 14-19 qualifications

Expected in February, the Recruiters Guide to 14-19 qualifications will provide advice and guidance to employers about school qualifications including the Diplomas and Young Apprenticeships.

The
Diploma
Employer Champions Network

