

**PRESS NOTICE
26th November 2012**

"DAME RUTH SILVER becomes an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Career Guidance"



At the Institute of Career Guidance (ICG) Annual Conference and the ICG' Council meeting held in Stratford upon Avon on 8-10 November, the Institute's Council unanimously approved the award of an Honorary Fellowship to Dame Ruth Silver.

The Fellowship is in recognition of Dame Ruth's outstanding leadership of the Careers Profession Task Force in 2010, and the major progress which has followed the publication of the CPTF Report and its recommendations to enhance the professional standing of career development practitioners.

Dame Ruth also became in January 2012 the founding chair of the Quality in Careers Consortium, established to oversee the national validation of England's specialist quality awards for all aspects of careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG); this national validation is the Quality in Careers Standard (QiCS) to which England's 13 specialist CEIAG quality awards are now fully committed to work towards. Dame Ruth handed over the role of chair of the Consortium Board at the end of September to Dr. Barrie Hopson.

The Project Leader for the QiCS, Paul Chubb, said today *"We are all delighted that the Institute has chosen to celebrate and formally recognise Dame Ruth's tremendous commitment to securing the highest professional status for careers work in England, as well as her passionate belief that securing CEIAG of the highest quality should be the goal for everyone working with young people across the country in our schools, colleges, work-based learning and in specialist careers guidance organisations."*

Dame Ruth Silver commented *"It is with great pleasure that I accept the Honorary Fellowship from the Institute. Quality matters when it comes to CEIAG for our young people; and it has been my privilege to lead the Careers Profession Task Force and subsequently to chair the Quality in Careers Consortium Board through the crucial early stages of fully establishing the national validation processes and procedures for the highly important Quality in Careers Standard."*

These remain the most challenging times both for young people as they progress towards their late teens and early 20s, as well as for the CEIAG professionals striving to help all young people to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to take control of their future learning and work.

For me, the Quality in Careers Standard is a real beacon of hope for every young person, as it will assure families that their school or college has in place the essential foundations which CEIAG needs to prepare young people to make best use of the careers guidance which they will receive.

It is my pleasure today to thank the Institute and its membership for honouring me in this way. I wish everyone involved in the career development profession and in the quality assurance of CEIAG every success".

Adding his congratulations to Dame Ruth, Dr. Hopson said: *"It is excellent that Dame Ruth's personal contribution to the work we are all embarked upon to enhance CEIAG support for every young person has been recognised by the ICG. The Honorary Fellowship is richly deserved.*

Dame Ruth successfully led the Consortium Board through its crucial first phase in securing the establishment of the new Standard and all of its underpinning processes and procedures. The Quality in Careers Standard is becoming firmly established in the fabric of the new era in which schools have a new statutory duty to 'secure independent careers guidance' for all of their students.

I was delighted to accept the position of Chair on the Consortium Board, to succeed Dame Ruth and to lead us as we seek to embed the Quality in Careers Standard firmly into England's CEIAG supporting structures.

In celebrating Dame Ruth's work and the Honorary Fellowship awarded to her by the ICG, I know that I speak for her as well as everyone involved in the Quality in Careers Consortium, by reaffirming that we commend to every Head teacher and School Governing Body our belief that the new statutory duty on schools to secure independent careers guidance for pupils and students will be most effective when these three elements coexist in a school:

- Its overall CEIAG programme is quality assured against one of the dedicated Quality Awards available and that Award should meet the QiCS national validation.*
- The school builds upon its internal programme by securing specialist careers advice and guidance services from an external provider, close to the labour market and therefore able to assist young people to make informed choices – such a provider should meet the accepted 'industry standard' for advice and guidance on learning and work, the '**matrix** standard'.*
- The externally secured provider of careers guidance should employ professional careers advisers who are occupationally competent to professional standards – as determined by the Careers Profession Alliance"*

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. **FURTHER DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE FROM: Paul Chubb**, Project Leader for the QiCS. Tel: 07976 575536, paul.chubb@careersengland.org.uk
2. **The Careers Profession Alliance** is working towards establishing a new national framework of qualifications for career development work with all age groups, part of which includes the establishment of a new national Register of careers professionals qualified to the equivalent of QCF (Qualifications and Credit Framework) Level 6. The CPA is on track also to see the establishment of the Career Development Institute as the united professional body to carry forward this work from April 2013. For details please see www.cparegister.co.uk
3. **The Quality in Careers Consortium Board comprises:**
 - Dr. Barrie Hopson (succeeding Dame Ruth Silver as founding Chair);
 - Association for Careers Education and Guidance (ACEG) nominee, Vince Barrett, President;
 - Association of Colleges (AoC) nominee Joy Mercer, Director of Policy (Education);
 - Association of Employment and Learning Providers (AELP) nominee Graham Hoyle, Executive;
 - Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) nominee Duncan Baldwin, Deputy Policy Director;
 - CEIAG Expert Invitee David Andrews (CEIAG Consultant);
 - Careers England nominee Claire Nix, Member of the CE Board and Chair of the CE Quality Task Group;
 - Careers Profession Alliance (CPA) nominee Sue Barr, member of the CPA Executive;
 - Institute of Career Guidance (ICG nominee) David Milton, ICG Vice President;
 - National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) nominee Sion Humphreys, Assistant Secretary (Secondary); and
 - Project Leader Paul Chubb (Careers England).

4. BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF DAME RUTH SILVER

- Ruth Silver studied Psychology and Literature at Glasgow and Southampton Universities as an NUM scholar, trained at the Tavistock Institute for Human Relations in Adolescence and Transition and is a qualified, experienced teacher. Her employment has spanned child guidance, teaching and inspection, and, in service, at the former Department for Education and Skills, developing national education policy on personal development in young people.
- In June 2006, Ruth Silver was awarded a Damehood in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to further education. She was awarded a CBE in 1997 and holds Honorary Doctorates from London South Bank

University and the University of Southampton. She is a Fellow of the RSA, of The Working Man's College and of City and Guilds. She became chair of the board of the Learning and Skills Improvement Service in March 2008 and chairs the LSIS Council.

- She is on the board of the Jamie Oliver Foundation, is a member of the advisory group on Whole Education and a trustee of the Baker Dearing Trust.
- Until Summer 2009 she was the principal of Lewisham College, a large inner-city, vocational further education college in south east London serving a diverse and multi-cultural population. It is a double Beacon College offering inspiring and challenging courses and ensuring that all members of the community are provided with every opportunity to succeed.
- Under her principalship, the Ofsted Inspection report described the college as 'a highly professional culture which values critical reflection, experimentation and sharing of practice'. The report added that 'the college is outstanding in meeting the needs and interests of learners . . . and skilful in aligning its provision to current learner and economic needs.'
- Dame Ruth was a founder member on the new London Skills and Employment Board, is an adviser to the House of Commons Select Committee on Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills and co-chairs the Skills Commission.
- She was a founding trustee of the Edge Foundation devoted to raising the status of vocational learning; she was the first chief assessor for the Qualifying Programme for Principals and is the visiting professor on educational developments at London South Bank University.
- She was a member of the prime minister's Women and Work Commission and is committed to economic inclusiveness, particularly in the inner city. Additionally, Dame Ruth has written and broadcast extensively on educational matters.
- Dame Ruth chaired the TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF THE CAREERS PROFESSION. She did so with powerful integrity.
- The Careers Profession Task Force was established by the Labour Administration in 2009, and reported formally in 2010 to the new Coalition Government.
- Its report 'Towards a Strong Careers Profession' included 14 recommendations, all of which impinge upon improving the standing of the profession, its professionalism and matters related to Quality Assurance.

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