

PRESS NOTICE

“National Validation Procedures for Careers Education & Guidance Now Established”

1st February 2012

The newly constituted Consortium Board for the Quality in Careers Standard (QiCS) held its inaugural meeting on 26th January and has confirmed all arrangements for the new Standard.

Dame Ruth Silver, Chair of the new Board explains:

“This new 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 all Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) need to prepare young people to make best use of the careers guidance which they will receive.

England already has some 20 voluntary and valued Quality Awards for CEIAG. These Awards assess the quality of an overall programme of activity in a school, college or with a Work-Based Learning provider which prepares young people for career decision-making and choices of future learning and work.

The Awards can trace their history back to the early 1990s. Most have a strong local or regional identity, and are highly regarded in their localities.

One of the key recommendations of the Task Force on the future of the Careers Profession in 2010 was that there should be an over-arching national validation of these various awards to ensure we have national consistency.

*I am delighted to announce that the work initiated by Careers England on that recommendation has enabled us to establish the **Quality in Careers Standard** against which we hope all of the current Awards will wish to offer themselves for validation. The Standard is in essence a ‘kite mark’ for excellence.”*

Details about the Standard, including a Guide for Quality Award providers seeking validation and a suite of Self-Assessment materials, can now all be found on the QiCS dedicated section on the Careers England website www.careersengland.org.uk

Speaking after the Board meeting about the importance of quality assurance, especially in respect of CEIAG in schools, Paul Chubb, who led the Careers England project team, added:

“The changes to statutory duties affecting careers education and guidance arising out of the Education Act, 2011 come into effect in September this year. Schools will have a new duty to ‘secure independent careers guidance’ for their pupils and students. We believe that this will be most effective when these three things 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”.*

The current providers of the Quality Awards for CEIAG across England are now being invited by the QiCS Consortium Board to make the formal commitment to seek assessment against the national validation criteria.

“We would expect that most of the current QA providers will commit to prepare for national validation this coming year,” concludes Dame Ruth.

ENDS

*Further details are available from Paul Chubb, QiCS Project Leader
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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. 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 as recommendation 10 that the existing Quality Awards for CEIAG should be applauded and celebrated, but that a national ‘kite mark’ should be established to ensure consistency.
2. The Careers Profession Alliance is seeking to establish a new national framework of qualifications for ‘career development’ work with all age groups, part of which will see the proposed establishment of a new national Register of careers professionals qualified to the equivalent of QCF (Qualifications and Credit Framework) Level 6.
3. The Quality in Careers Standard Consortium Board comprises:
 - Dame Ruth Silver as Chair
 - Association for Careers Education & Guidance (ACEG) nominee = Vince Barrett, President
 - Association of Colleges (AoC) nominee = Joy Mercer, Director of Policy (Education)
 - Association of Employment & Learning Providers (AELP) nominee = Graham Hoyle, Executive
 - Association of School & 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 = Ruth Spellman, Chair of the CPA
 - Institute of Career Guidance (ICG nominee) = David Milton, ICG Vice President
 - National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) nominee = Lesley Gannon, Head of Campaigns
 - Project Leader = Paul Chubb (Careers England)