



DR BARRIE HOPSON RETIRES



After 13 years as Chair of the Quality in Careers Consortium Board, Dr Barrie Hopson has retired with effect from 31st March 2024.

The Board received Barrie's formal confirmation of his retirement, due to declining health, at its meeting on 19th March, and warmly thanked Barrie for his outstanding leadership and commitment to the Quality in Careers Standard and the work of the Consortium.

In his letter to the Board, Barrie said:

"I have been immensely pleased to see the increasing evidence of the impact of the Quality in Careers Standard on young people's careers provision in our schools and colleges. Those institutions which have achieved our national award have the highest Gatsby Benchmark scores. We also now have the highest number of schools and colleges either holding the award or working towards accreditation since we began to offer the single national award in 2017. I wish to congratulate our Awarding Bodies, alongside Paul and the Professional Team, for these outstanding achievements....."

"I'm sorry not to be able to be with you virtually in person on 19th March, and I know how understanding about this you will be. Please accept my thanks for the past 13+ years with you. I send my heartfelt good wishes to you, for the Standard and, most especially, for the young people whose lives can be so positively assisted by our national award - enabling schools and colleges to provide the best possible quality assured careers education and guidance."

Speaking about Barrie on his retirement, Quality in Careers Director – Paul Chubb – said:

“Barrie has been a true inspiration. We all owe him a tremendous debt. Barrie was director of the Vocational Guidance Research Unit at Leeds University, setting up the Counselling and Career Development Unit at Leeds University in 1975 and he was its first Director until 1984. He was one of the ‘founding Fathers’ and pioneers of careers education in schools and wrote the first two seminal books on the subject in the UK.

Barrie has written over 40 books and numerous articles on personal and career development, quality service, transition and change management, generic training skills, marriage and Lifeskills teaching. His best-known books are “Build Your Own Rainbow”, “12 Steps to Success Through Service”, the series of “Lifeskills Teaching Programmes”, the textbook on “Lifeskills Teaching” and “The Rainbow Years: The Pluses of Being 50+”.

His entire career has been driven by helping people to become architects of their own futures. Everyone associated with Quality in Careers sends Barrie our thanks and heartfelt good wishes.”