

Careers Sector Stakeholders Alliance

PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Never mind youth unemployment now, what about the next generation?

Ahead of a report this week on youth unemployment titled 'Precarious Futures' by the UKCES, we know that there are serious concerns about labour market opportunities for future generations. TUC Secretary General, Frances O'Grady says that job prospects for many young people have deteriorated alarmingly.

Although improving, we know that only one in four employers offer work experience placements to young people in education and just 15% of employers have or offer apprenticeships to young people.

Structural changes in the labour market mean that young people are competing with older and more experienced workers, who have been forced to trade down for the lower and mid level jobs that young people would normally take.

The Careers Alliance has launched a #futuretalent campaign backed by over 50 employers, professional bodies and education organisations, including Atkins, Capgemini, Deloitte, National Grid, Siemens, Wates, the ACCA, the Bar Council, the Chartered Management Institute, the ICAEW, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Federation for Industry Sector Skills & Standards, Creative & Cultural Skills, and the Recruitment and Employment Confederation amongst many others.

It is not enough for employers to just offer more work opportunities for young people now. The Royal Academy of Engineering's report on "Jobs and Growth" forecasts that the UK economy will require 830,000 professional scientists, engineers and technologists over the next decade alone. There is a long term skills issue that must be addressed by bringing education and training and the labour market closer together.

This is why employers and the Careers Alliance are calling for collaborative action between professional careers advisers, employers and schools and colleges in providing careers advice and guidance to young people by:

- (a) Highlighting the importance of careers education and guidance in schools and colleges.
- (b) Framing employer contributions as part of professionally managed careers programmes and not as ad hoc initiatives.
- (c) Affirming that, working together within a planned careers programme, employers and career professionals can provide far more effective help to young people than either could do on their own.

The #futuretalent campaign challenges current Government policies by highlighting the importance of collaborative action in career guidance. This contrasts with the Government's latest Statutory Guidance to schools which has emphasised contributions from employers and people in jobs to inspire and motivate young people in schools and colleges about the world of work, but makes little reference to the role of careers advisers, nor explains how such links between employers and schools and colleges can best be brokered.

The Careers Alliance, which is made up of more than twenty of the country's largest skills and education organisations, reports that the inputs from employers and careers advisers need to be integrated into well-planned careers programmes in schools.

Commenting on the campaign, Dame Ruth Silver, Chair of the Careers Alliance, said: 'There remains a disconnect between education and the world of work. Our joint call with employers shows that collaborative action is the best solution; employers say they can't do it all on their own. Employers endorse this call by the Careers Alliance for partnership working to get careers guidance in schools and colleges right.'

Toby Peyton-Jones, Director of Human Resources at Siemens plc said: ‘Siemens would like to fully endorse the call for collaborative action by the Careers Sector Stakeholders Alliance by adding our support for driving structured and sustained collaboration between schools and employers in preparing young people for the world of work.’

Steve Holliday, CEO at National Grid said: ‘We know employers can play a more active role educating school children about the world of work. We would like to add our support to the Careers Alliance statement about improving the links between employers, schools and career advisory services to lead to better informed young people considering their career options.’

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Notes to Editor:

List of employers supporting the Careers Alliance statement:

Sarah Hathaway, Chair, Access to the Professions and Head of ACCA UK

Sue Cooper, HR Director, UK & Europe, Atkins

Stephen Crowne, Chief Executive, The Bar Council

Ann Brown, Senior Vice President HR, Capgemini

Rosalind Thorpe, Head of Education, The Chartered Institute of Building

David Thomson, Director of Policy & Public Affairs, The Chartered Insurance Institute

Lee Davies, Chief Executive, The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys

Lindsay Melvin, Chief Executive Officer, The Chartered Institute of Payroll Professionals

Alastair McCapra, CEO, Chartered Institute of Public Relations

Ann Francke, Chief Executive, Chartered Management Institute

Pauline Tambling, Joint Chief Executive, Creative & Cultural Skills

Julie Mercer, Lead Industry Partner, Education, Deloitte MCS Ltd

Nick Chambers, Director, Education and Employers Taskforce

Nigel Spencer, Director of Development & Quality, Engineering Construction Industry Training Board

Neil Robertson, Chief Executive, Energy & Utility Skills

Mark Froud, Managing Director, Federation for Industry Sector Skills and Standards

Michael Izza, Chief Executive, ICAEW (The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales)

Charles Elvin, Chief Executive, Institute of Leadership & Management

Dr Jean Kelly, Chief Executive, Institute for Learning

Malcolm Trotter, Chief Executive, International Association of Book-keepers

Ruth Harper, Head of Corporate Affairs, ManPowerGroup UK

Steve Holliday, Chief Executive, National Grid

Kevin Green, Chief Executive, Recruitment and Employment Confederation

Philip Greenish CBE CEng FIET, Chief Executive, Royal Academy of Engineering

Dr Robert Parker, Chief Executive, Royal Society of Chemistry

Sarah Sillars OBE FIMI, Chief Executive, Semta

Toby Peyton-Jones, Director of Human Resources, Siemens plc

Lindsay Gillespie, Executive Director, SummitSkills

James Wates CBE, Chairman, Wates Group

Employers and teachers can't do it on their own

Leading UK employers, unions, and skills and education providers are calling for more collaboration between schools, employers and careers advisers to give better careers advice to young people. Too often,

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Date: 23 June 2014. Contact: Keith Herrmann, Email: kherrmann@me.com

young people are bombarded by a hoard of information online and from employers, from their peers and from their school or college.

Teachers can't be expected to do it alone, nor should employers be expected to shoulder the sole responsibility. Employers working with schools are crucial to providing opportunities for students to see what working life is like. Professional careers advisers need to work with schools and employers to help young people learn about their options, such as apprenticeships, further and higher education and about the transition into employment.

Employers now say - clearly and unequivocally - that they can't do it on their own, and endorse the Careers Alliance call for a co-ordinated and collaborative approach to careers advice in schools and colleges.

The Careers Alliance welcomes the recently launched report by the Gatsby Foundation which outlined eight benchmarks for what it calls 'good career guidance' in schools and colleges.

National Grid with support from Costain, Capgemini, Compass Group, Energy & Utility Skills, HS2, and Whitbread have launched 'Careers Lab', a programme aimed at 11 to 16 year olds that gives schools the framework they need to engage local and national businesses and collaborate with them on careers advice alongside professional careers advisers and other support agencies.

For more information or interviews, please contact:

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Careers Sector Stakeholders Alliance

Chaired by Dame Ruth Silver, the Careers Sector Stakeholders Alliance (Careers Alliance) is established to formulate a national strategic framework for careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) to address the issues of access, transparency, quality, equality, and continuity, and to identify areas where UK-wide co-ordination would be helpful. The Careers Alliance will promote increased co-ordination, collaboration and co-operation among stakeholders in the careers sector and be a collective voice for the careers sector.

Twitter: [@careersalliance](https://twitter.com/careersalliance) and [@keith_herrmann](https://twitter.com/keith_herrmann)

Web: www.careersalliance.com

Careers Alliance Membership

The Careers Sector Stakeholders Alliance membership is drawn from a wide range of stakeholder organisations from the careers profession, the business sector, trade unions, and many educational organisations. Members of the Careers Alliance include:

- Association of Colleges (AoC)
- Association of Employment and Learning Providers (AELP)
- Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS)
- Association of Graduate Recruiters (AGR)
- Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)
- The Bridge Group
- British Chambers, (BCC)
- Careers England
- Career Development Institute (CDI)
- Careers Wales

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- City & Guilds
- HECSU
- International Centre for Guidance Studies (iCeGS), University of Derby
- National Institute for Careers Education and Counselling (NICEC)
- National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE)
- Pearson Education UK
- Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)
- The RSA
- The Science Council
- Tertiary Colleges Group
- TUC
- Unison

Associate members:

- UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES)
- Universities UK

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