

Enterprise Adviser Network

Q&A document – updated November 2016

Q1. What is the Enterprise Adviser Network?

The Enterprise Adviser Network is a programme designed to encourage businesses and schools to work together to support young people in making informed choices about their future careers.

The project is part of the government-backed Careers & Enterprise Company, which was launched to ‘join the dots’ in careers and enterprise provision across England. As you may be aware, the Company partnered with LEPs, offering funding to create the Enterprise Adviser Network and connect senior business volunteers with schools and colleges.

Q2. Where is this happening?

A similar project has already been piloted in five areas across the country and is now being rolled out to the majority of remaining LEP areas.

The format differs throughout the country, with most LEPs delivering the project directly. In the HotSW LEP area, the service has been through the procurement process and CSW Group are delivering the project.

Q3. When is this happening?

Funding was secured in August 2015. The project was officially launched in March 2016 and employers will be in schools, working on the project by summer 2016.

Q4. Why is this project being launched?

We know that students perform better at school and are more likely to enter further education and employment if they have had contact with businesses. Dr Anthony Mann, Director of Policy and Research at Education and Employers Taskforce says in his research: “Young adults who have four or more contacts with employers while at school are significantly less likely to become NEET and can expect to earn up to 18% more than peers who had no such exposure.”

The idea is to help schools work better with employers, therefore increasing employer engagement with young people, and raising ambition.

Q5. Who are the partners?

The service is commissioned on behalf of the Heart of the South West LEP (HotSW LEP), and managed on a day-to-day basis by CSW Group.

The programme is being funded by the Careers and Enterprise Company, Devon County Council, Somerset County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Development Agency.

Q6. How is the project being funded?

The project is jointly funded by the CEC and the four Upper Tier Local Authorities in the LEP area. This consists of Devon County Council, Somerset County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Development Agency.

Q7. What is the aim?

The aim is to motivate young people, support them in making informed choices about their future and help them attain both in and out of school.

Q8. What exactly will be happening?

The project will follow the following format:

- Initially, each school will undertake a needs analysis, identifying strengths and challenges;
- A business adviser will then be appointed to work with each school;
- Each school will work with the appointed adviser to create a bespoke employer engagement plan; this will agree how the school will focus on working with employers;

Q9. How many schools have been selected? Which schools are they?

Initially, we were able to fund 36 schools on the project. However, in November 2016 we secured additional funding which will allow the project to roll out to a further 27 schools.

This will mean that 60% of schools in the area will have an Enterprise Adviser. Six special schools have also been invited to take part.

Over time we hope to be able to offer this to all schools. The current list of participating schools is available here www.heartofswlep.co.uk/ean

Q10. What is the selection process?

Schools have been selected according to a number of criteria, including exam results, the number of pupils receiving free school meals and the numbers of school leavers not in education, employment or training (NEETS).

Q11. How does this differ from other similar projects?

Although other employer engagement programmes exist, this service is different as it:

- Is intended to focus on strategic planning initially, rather than delivery;
- It will signpost and reference other programmes where appropriate;
- Is part of a nationwide programme involving the majority of Local Enterprise Partnerships.

Q12. Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact us:

Email: charlotte.molyneux@ebp-sw.org

Website: www.heartofswlep.co.uk/ean