

**Scottish Government**

**15-24 Learner Journey Review**

**Project 2: Learner Choice and Application Colleges and Universities**

This document provides a summary of the meetings held as part of the 15-24 learner journey review to discuss the Review of the Delivery of Careers Information Awareness and Guidance (CIAG) in Colleges and Universities.

**April 2018**

## **15-24 Learner Journey Review**

### **Project 2 report – Review of the Delivery of Careers Information Awareness and Guidance (CIAG) in Colleges and Universities**

#### **Aim**

To make recommendations in relation to the delivery and assessment of the quality of CIAG to meet the needs of college and university learners.

Firstly, the project team considered the current careers service delivery in colleges and universities. The findings have been summarised as follows:

#### **Universities**

Universities are autonomous bodies with each institution determining its approach to delivering Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance based on learner needs.

The quality of Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance services in Scotland's Universities is monitored through the QAA and continuous improvement led through internal processes. These include:

- The Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS) Code of Practice
- Internal institutional review required by the Scottish Funding Council
- Quality Assurance Agency Scotland external institutional review (Enhancement-led Institutional Review)

These processes are underpinned by the requirements of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education and supported through Scottish Enhancement Theme activity.

#### **Colleges**

The Scottish Government provides no strategic or delivery direction to colleges around the manner, content or quality of the career services they provide. In this way college principals and their Boards can choose how best to deliver career services to their students in line with their resources, institutional aims and student needs.

Colleges can choose to meet the career information, advice and guidance needs of their students through both face to face contact with college careers advisors, through the curriculum and through their links with the local business community. In addition, most colleges have a service agreement in place with Skills Development Scotland which allows students to access additional support.

The evidence concluded there is scope for the Scottish Government to make recommendations on delivery of careers services in colleges ensuring all learners can access careers advice and guidance. There is the potential for Scottish Ministers

to have a strategic role setting out the expectations of the careers service in colleges however the decision on day to day delivery will fall with the college leaders.

## **Key Points**

During stakeholder consultations key themes emerged which included:

- Career Education Standard 3-18 is a positive development however it is aimed at schools. The principles of the Standard should apply and be embedded in the college sector
- School pupils receive careers advice and guidance whilst at school in a number of ways. However, this is not replicated in the college sector raising questions about equity of access.
- Colleges have responsibility to deliver career services for their own institutions. Career support tends to be part of student support services, which covers a broad remit.
- Consider how to support colleges to develop and share professional standard/quality frameworks allowing colleges to be flexible in what career information, advice and guidance services they deliver to meet the needs of all students.
- Raising awareness of careers services in college and universities – the earlier a learner seeks careers advice the better allowing them to consider options prior to course completion
- Value of employer input was recognised and increasing employer engagement was suggested to help learners understand work readiness skills
- Universities deliver Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance based and have mechanisms in place to determine and safeguard the quality of services and the skills of the advisors whilst sharing good practice.

## **Opportunities/Challenges**

- Working collaboratively with stakeholders to develop a consistent approach to delivery careers services in colleges and across the learning and training sector.
- Promoting careers services to learners and the support it provides
- Timescales and a potential financial implication