

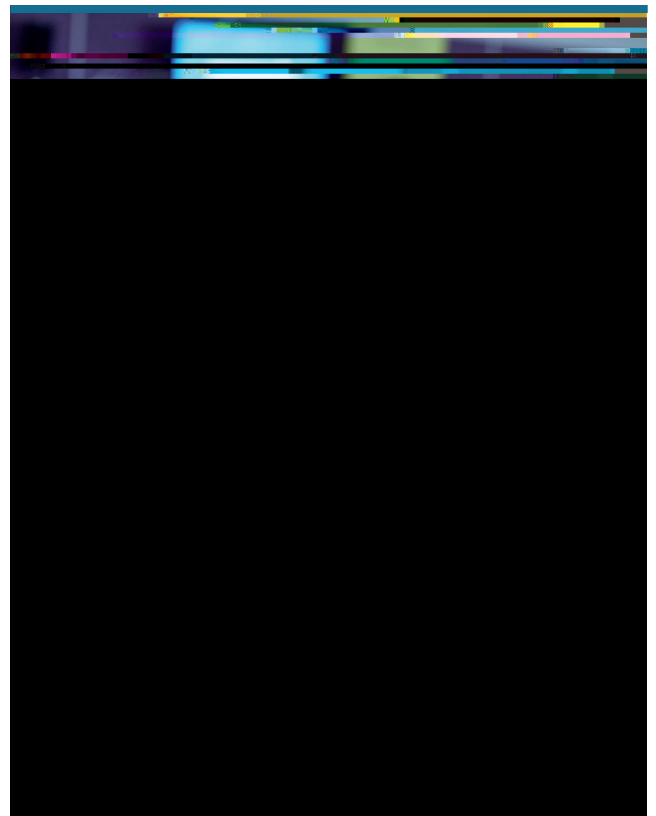
Employer engagement with schools and colleges is critical to the delivery of world-class careers education. In recent years, the number of employer encounters and workplace experiences has increased significantly, reflecting the growing emphasis on coordination.

It is essential for young people to engage meaningfully with employers, so that they can be inspired by and better prepared for the world of work.

The Government's Careers Strategy places employers at the centre of careers education for young people. This is because of the compelling evidence that exposure to business has multiple impacts, including a positive effect on young people's aspirations, awareness, skills as well as their attitude to studying.

Young people are now experiencing, and needing to adapt to, a fast-changing labour market. And we know that fewer young people are undertaking part-time employment in addition to their studies. This makes the need for high-quality workplace experiences and links to employers even greater during their education. Aside from the positive impact on young people's skills and knowledge, it is also important to the employers that take part – by raising the skills of staff involved and by developing talent pipelines.

The Careers Strategy sets out an ambitious goal of providing at least one encounter with an employer per year for the seven years that young people spend in secondary and further education (a minimum of seven encounters), as well as at least two experiences of the workplace before they leave full-time education.



8 Ygd]hY h\Y gj[b] Wbh]a dfcj Ya Ybhk YUFY'gYY]b['zh\YfY]g'gh]'` Uk Umhc [c"H\Y' bU'ghfYhW' cZUm'ci fbYmWb' gca Yh]a YgVY h\Y'a cghX]Z W'hÿ Vi hk YU'gc'_bck h\YfY]gUXYhYfa]bUh]cb Z'ca Vch\ Ya d'cnYfg'UbXYXi W'hc'fghc' continue to close this gap and ensure every young person receives their minimum entitlement.

We will continue to support partnerships between employers and education to make this happen, and Closing the Gap highlights what we need to do to achieve this.

Over 200 larger companies have become 'Cornerstone Employers' in local areas, taking responsibility for delivering enduring business engagement. In recent months we've seen Small and Medium Enterprises step up in increasing numbers, with 1500 engaging through our Give an Hour campaign - delivered in partnership with Local Enterprise Partnerships. Many more employers are also supporting schools and colleges both directly and through some brilliant local and national programmes.

We know local variations in coverage exist, for example:

- Only 1% of young people in Worcestershire miss out on employer encounters compared to 25% in the North Hampshire and South West Surrey area.
- 23% of young people in Hertfordshire don't get workplace experience compared to 49% in nearby Berkshire.

Our partnership with all 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships in England provides a structure to make connections at a local level and address imbalances.

Young people aged 11 to 14 are most likely to miss out on employer encounters, whilst young people below the age of 16 UFY`Ygg`_Y'mhc VYbY hZ'ca Yl dYf]YbWgcZk cf_d`UWgh\Ub' those aged 17 to 18.

Closing the Gap enables us to pin-point gaps, by local area and by year group.

Our work in supporting Careers Leaders in schools and colleges



