



NEWS STATEMENT

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE QUALITY IN CAREERS CONSORTIUM BOARD, Dr Barrie Hopson.

25th May 2018

“REVISED NATIONAL CRITERIA FOR THE QUALITY IN CAREERS STANDARD – fully aligned with the Gatsby Benchmarks”.

On behalf of the Quality in Careers Consortium Board, Dr Hopson today announces that the Board has approved the complete revision of the national assessment and accreditation criteria for the Quality in Careers Standard – to take effect from September 2018.

The revised national criteria comply fully with the Department for Education’s “Careers Strategy”¹ (December 2017), the Department’s revised Statutory Guidance to schools on fulfilling their statutory duties in respect of careers education and guidance² (January 2018), and are fully aligned with the Gatsby Benchmarks³ for “Good Careers Guidance”.

Dr Hopson said: “Included in the revised Statutory Guidance was paragraph 20 below. Ministers expected us to complete the revision by June 2018 – we have done so, and today, alongside this News Statement, we are publishing the revised national criteria on our website”:

“Statutory Guidance paragraph 20: Schools can gain formal accreditation of their careers programme through the Quality in Careers Standard - the national quality award for careers education, information, advice and guidance. The Standard offers an opportunity for schools to undergo an external evaluation of their careers programme and so is distinct from the Compass self-assessment.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/careers-strategy-making-the-most-of-everyones-skills-and-talents>

² https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672418/Careers_guidance_and_access_for_education_and_training_providers.pdf

³ <http://www.gatsby.org.uk/education/focus-areas/good-career-guidance>

Work is continuing to align the Standard more fully to the Benchmarks and to incorporate Compass into its processes, so those schools achieving the Standard meet all eight Benchmarks.

We strongly recommend that all schools work towards the updated Quality in Careers Standard, incorporating Compass, to support the development of their careers programme.”

The revised national criteria have been agreed with the DfE, the Gatsby Foundation and the Careers & Enterprise Company. They also incorporate the ‘Compass’ self-assessment tool into our procedures culminating in our external assessment and accreditation of careers provision provided by schools, colleges and work-based learning providers from September 2018.

The Quality in Careers Consortium fully supports the DfE’s strategy, and its revised Statutory Guidance, and we will seek to support its expectation that all schools should meet the Gatsby Benchmarks by the end of 2020.

Our revised national criteria will ensure that we continue to recognise the good practice already in place in many schools and colleges across the country – focussing upon where they are either “making good progress” towards fully meeting the eight Gatsby Benchmarks and all of our criteria by the end of 2020, as well as those who are fully meeting these. We will continue to highlight some of this good practice in Case Studies⁴ on our website.

We remain concerned that good practice is still too patchy. With our revised national criteria being agreed with the DfE, the Gatsby Foundation and the Careers & Enterprise Company, we shall all be promoting together the benefits of the Benchmarks, the Compass tool, and the Quality in Careers Standard.

Together we will strive to ensure that every young person across the country is provided with quality assured careers education, information, advice and guidance which enables them to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to take control of their learning and work career pathways.

Dr Hopson concluded: *“In addition to the revised national criteria now being in place for all Quality in Careers assessments from September 2018, **we remain convinced that the Department should now make available a dedicated (hypothecated) premium grant to all state-funded secondary schools on condition that they work towards, achieve and maintain the Quality in Careers Standard.**”*

We continue to call upon the Department to instigate this – lack of funding continues to be the single biggest impediment to more schools working towards the national Quality in Careers Standard.”

{Ends}

(p) Quality in Careers Consortium, May 2018 www.qualityincareers.org.uk

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⁴ <http://www.qualityincareers.org.uk/careers-guidance/case-studies/>