Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Survey: Oxfordshire Results 2015

Executive Summary

Three years after responsibility for Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance passed from the local authority to schools and colleges, an online survey focus groups asked young people in Years 10 and 12 to tell us about the CEIAG they have received and how it might be improved. In May and June 2015 1804 young people responded online and 145 took part in 13 focus groups around the county.

There is a huge range of careers activities and job seeking support available and the offer varies from school to school. Young people particularly like work experience and visits to and from employers, but not everyone had the opportunity to participate in work experience. There was a mixed response about the quality of one-to-one careers interviews but the time with an informed professional to explore options is highly valued and we were given numerous examples of individual staff that have helped them understand and make decisions about post-16 opportunities and career pathways. 62% of respondents knew where to go for careers advice which in school/college but only 18% knew about support after they finished school which is a problem if young people become unemployed or are unhappy in their post-16 destinations.

43% of young people felt their school or college provided was useful but the survey results and focus group discussions did highlight some areas where young people think that provision could be made more effective:

1. Year 11 is too late; Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance provision needs to have more prominence from Year 8 upwards.
2. Impartiality: All students need to know about all the pathways available to them so they have real choice.
3. Teachers and parents need to be better informed about Post-14 and Post-16 provision.
4. Young people would like more one-to-one time with well-informed professionals to discuss what pathway is best for them as an individual.
5. More work experience and contact with employers is needed to help students understand types of work they would like to do and what skills they will need.
6. Young people use the internet to find careers information but need guidance about which websites to use – there is a lack of awareness of www.oxme.info.
7. Young people do not have enough information about the financial implications and effect on family benefits of them choosing different post-16 pathways.
8. Students leaving school do not feel prepared for being self-employed, dealing with tax, mortgages and loans. Many asked for Life Skills input before they leave school.
9. Poor attenders, excluded students and those in alternative education programmes need to be included in the school careers education strategy.
10. Young people need help to connect the careers activities schools and colleges provide with employability skills and articulate their knowledge and experiences.

There was very little difference between responses from young people from vulnerable groups, with the exception of SEND students who were less likely to ask parents for advice and more reliant on professionals.

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