

Young People's Education and Skills Board

Policy Update (Supplement)

Item: 5(s)

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Summary This paper provides additional information to supplement Paper 6 *Policy Update*. It includes information that has been published since the despatch of the meeting's papers.

Recommendation Board members are asked to discuss the information provided in the presentation.

1 National Leaders of Further Education

1.1 We offer our congratulations to our Board member Dr Sam Parrett OBE who has been appointed a National Leader of Further education by the Secretary of State for Education

2 Disconnected: Career aspirations and jobs in the UK ¹

2.1 This report by Education and Employers (the charity that brings businesses and educational institutions together to improve young people's motivation in learning) is based on a survey of 7,000 young people (aged between 14 and 18) and reveals a disconnect between young people's career aspirations and jobs in the UK, both now and in the future. Its key findings are:

- The sectors that young people aspire to work in differ greatly from the jobs available. There is a disconnect between aspiration and opportunity;
- Five times as many young people want to work in art, culture, entertainment and sport as there are jobs available;
- Aspirations are set early, as young as 7, and do not change enough over time to meet demand;
- Young people who benefit from careers activities have aspirations that are better connected to the labour market;
- Extending best practice could change the lives of 100,000 school leavers per year.

3 Dream Jobs? Teenagers' Career Aspirations and the Future of Work²

3.1 This was launched by the OECD at the recent World Economic Forum in Davos. It is based on last year's PISA survey and says that the huge changes in the world of work that have occurred over the past 20 years have made little impact on teenagers' career expectations, which have become more concentrated in fewer occupations. The report draws a connection, based on more forensic analysis of the PISA survey, between deprivation, lower PISA scores and more limited careers aspirations; it also reports a

¹ <https://www.educationandemployers.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Disconnected-Career-aspirations-and-jobs-in-the-UK-1.pdf>

² <https://www.oecd.org/education/dream-jobs-teenagers-career-aspirations-and-the-future-of-work.htm>

gender-based bias towards traditional employment pathways. It distinguishes between those countries where these features are most obvious and those where the gaps are much smaller and the aspirations of young people are much broader– it emphasises that those countries have an international reputation for strong and well-established vocational education.