

Question 1: What are the challenges to schools to engage business?

Time in the curriculum to offer business resource
Resources/funding
Staff buy in to include businesses
To be part of the curriculum – built into school programmes
Demands on students time
Stretched resources
Breaking down perceptions of what young people need – empathy
Buy in – Gold Standard
Prominence of Human Resource contacts within businesses
Schools don't always have someone in role to support this
Teachers often don't have time to engage with employers
Lack of drop down days for other events
Lack of awareness from other subjects
Tapping into a saturated market
CEC support
Add on job for schools – employers not engaged
Strength lies with contact at school
Time restrictions from school
Impartiality
Having key contact person in school
Profile of school with employers
Time to make employer contacts
Keep it simple – make it easy for employers to engage
Working with student timetables
Academic focus

Question 2: How do we support solution finding?

Careers advisors need to engage with businesses
Business to business support – hub of similar businesses to share time
Sell benefits – share best practice
Educating employers
Have a dedicated careers role
Make careers an important part of all subject leader roles
Being flexible with employers – building their sessions around their working hours
CEC Strategy document
Volunteers in schools to support as a resource
Profile raising – CEIAG/benefits – not just measurable outcome
Interact with UK PLC – look at the bigger picture
Standardised approach
Think of investment of pupils
CPD – schools staff
Lack of knowledge – awareness raising
Link to business network – schools to be a member
Do the ground work
Create simple quick wins for both parties
One key person in the school SLT
Governor links
Generate more opportunities
Working lunches
Study period – focused career sessions
Newsletters - students

Question 3: Do we need a school conference? If so, what does it look like?

Possibly by sectors in business rather than a conference
Make sure that the key people in schools attend
More schools to join the Skills Network
Need buy in from SLT/SMT/Governors
Yes – low numbers of schools attending Skills Network
Great idea
CPD
Not exposed to industry – so this would create link
Practitioners from all areas – roadshows – less time consuming – tailor to how school works
Apprenticeship – Providers
Post 16 Skills Plan – Vocational progression v academic
Clarity on focus of conference – Employer engagement
Share best practice – what works well – how to make it better
How do schools track employer
Is the conference for students or staff/professionals
Parent engagement?
Evening?
6th forms/apprenticeships/local employers – Students/parents

Question 4: What can the Skills Network do to support schools with career advice?

Credence to jobs available – not just specific jobs
Link with construction support
Student ambassadors
University
Provide strategic partnerships
Support on national agenda
Keep up to date
Develop new initiatives following new agendas
Develop stronger relationships with multi academy trusts
Newsletter to schools – careers advisors/head teachers
Careers & Enterprise Company