

Coast to Capital launches Careers Hub to help transform careers education and support skills for COVID-19 recovery

Coast to Capital are delighted to announce that 35 schools and colleges from across the Crawley, mid Sussex and East Surrey area will be included in a newly formed Careers Hub to accelerate levels of support and improvement in young people's career development.

Schools and colleges within the Careers Hub will have access to:

- an expert 'Hub Lead' to help coordinate activity and build networks.
- a central fund to support employer engagement activities
- training for a 'Careers Leader' in each school and college.

As a result of the pandemic, a particular focus of Coast to Capital is on the aviation sector losing large numbers of jobs, and making sure that the workforce keeps up with the future demands. This is likely to become much more automated and tech-driven as COVID-19 drives massive change on how it operates. In Crawley and some other places, levels of entrepreneurship and business start-up are very low and there is no University presence close to the airport.

As a key priority for Coast to Capital's Skills 360 Board, which brings together employers and skills providers to understand and address these key local skills challenges, the proven Careers Hub model will now play a critical role in supporting local skills development.

Evidence published by The Careers & Enterprise Company in October last year showed Career Hubs accelerating overall careers education progress and performance by 56% in 12 months.

Jonathan Sharrock, Chief Executive at Coast to Capital said:

"As we look towards economic recovery, addressing key skills challenges is vital in ensuring the future success of our area. I'm pleased that we have taken steps to ensure the safeguarding of our workforce by delivering a Careers Hub and helping to provide jobs for sectors that will be affected by the pandemic for years to come."

Minister for Apprenticeships and Skills, Gillian Keegan said:

"We want young people across the country to receive the best careers advice so they can get a head start in the world of work and go on to have successful careers."

"The expansion of our Careers Hubs will mean we are now supporting more than 2,200 schools and colleges, bringing them together with employers to provide high quality careers guidance."

"Now, more than ever, it's vital young people make the most of their talents and are aware of the range of opportunities available. This is brilliant news and I look forward to hearing about the progress made."

John Yarham, Interim CEO of The Careers & Enterprise Company said:

"Careers Hubs drive accelerated performance in careers education and have proven particularly robust and resilient during the covid-19 crisis, continuing to support young people in local communities."

"Careers Hubs bring people together. They create a powerful partnership between schools, colleges, employers and local agencies focused on improving skills and opportunity for young people, tailored to local need - nationally led, locally developed and delivered."

"This partnership is a critical point of difference from the past and means we are better positioned to weather the storm and help our next generation navigate the choppy waters ahead."

"Schools, colleges and young people have a real time connection to the changing jobs market – opening opportunity in areas that are emerging the strongest and growing the fastest. What this means is we have the opportunity to more closely match real people to real jobs in real time. It is a proven robust and sustainable model for the needs of now and into the future."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

LEP areas that are part of the new expansion of Careers Hubs:

- Black Country
- Birmingham
- Buckinghamshire
- Coast to Capital
- Cornwall & Isles of Scilly
- D2N2
- Dorset
- East Sussex
- GFirst
- Greater Manchester
- Heart of the SW
- Hertfordshire
- Lancashire
- Liverpool
- New Anglia

- Sheffield City Region
- Stoke on Trent
- Swindon & Wiltshire
- Tees Valley
- The Marches
- West of England
- Worcestershire

11 LEPS where all schools and colleges will be covered by a Careers Hub:

- Black Country
- Dorset
- East Sussex
- Heart of the SW
- Lancashire
- Liverpool
- Swindon & Wiltshire
- Tees Valley
- The Marches
- West of England
- Worcestershire

The careers education network established by CEC comprises nearly 3,000 schools and colleges in the Enterprise Adviser Network, more than 2,200 of which will now be covered by a Careers Hubs. These are linked with more than 200 businesses and 2,500 senior professionals from the business community.

About Coast to Capital LEP

1. Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership provides leadership, investment and business support to increase productivity and generate sustainable and inclusive growth - www.coast2capital.org.uk
2. We cover a diverse and vibrant area which includes the, East Surrey, West Sussex and Greater Brighton.
3. In the six years since Coast to Capital was formed, we have successfully invested more than £300 million of public money in local infrastructure.
4. Our Strategic Economic Plan - **Gatwick 360°** - can be downloaded from our website – <http://www.coast2capital.org.uk/strategy/>

About The Careers & Enterprise Company

Our mission is to prepare and inspire young people for the fast-changing world of work.

We support schools and colleges by linking them to employers and helping them deliver world class careers support for all young people. We do this by:

- Building Networks: Linking schools and colleges to employers and other external careers providers through the [Enterprise Adviser Network](#) and [Careers Hubs](#).
- Supporting Careers Leaders: Providing training and support for Careers Leaders in schools and colleges.
- Backing the Gatsby Benchmarks: Supporting implementation of a best practice standard for careers support, the Gatsby Benchmarks, with tools and targeted funding.

For more information on The Careers & Enterprise Company, please email press@careersandenterprise.co.uk or call 0207 566 3400.