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Context

During the year, there were no inspections of Career Choices Dewis Gyrfa Ltd (CCDG), which trades as Gyrfa Cymru Careers Wales. The company was formed in 2013, and is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Welsh Government. Career Choices Dewis Gyrfa delivers a blended service that integrates the use of digital technologies alongside more traditional, face-to-face channels of delivery. It provides an all age, independent and impartial careers information, advice and guidance service for Wales.

The requirements for Careers Wales services are set out in an annual remit letter from the Welsh Government. This is underpinned by the articles of association for Career Choices Dewis Gyrfa and a framework document, which is used as a basis for the Careers Wales annual business plan. Careers Wales aims to help people make effective decisions in managing their careers and progressing within training, further learning or employment. In this way it aims to contribute to the economic and social wellbeing of Wales. In the period since 2010, changes in its remit and reductions in its operating budget have led to many changes to the structure, staffing and role of the company, including its withdrawal from supporting young people to access work experience.

Sector summaries:

Careers

In April 2017, Careers Wales launched their three year vision, 'Changing Lives' (2017). The vision refocused resources on young people, with a particular emphasis on key stage 4 and support at other transition points up to the age of 19.

The reduced resources available to the company have increased the importance of the role that schools should have in helping young people to plan their career progression.

During this year, we published a thematic report on [A levels in sixth forms and further education colleges](#) (Estyn, 2018a). This report identified that, while many learners and their parents are happy with the quality of advice and guidance they have received from staff in schools and colleges, in reality they do not have access to clear information about which are the best A level providers in their locality. Advice and guidance for a few learners, mainly those with low attainment at GCSE, are unsuitable. These learners are more likely not to complete Year 12 or not to progress to Year 13 than other learners. In general, advice and guidance from teachers are too focused on academic routes such as A levels and university, at the expense of other career paths. In schools with sixth forms, advice and guidance from staff are often focused on keeping learners in their sixth form.