Section 1

Sector summaries: Careers

Context

Gyrfa Cymru Careers Wales is the Welsh Government owned subsidiary body, that provides all-age, independent and impartial careers advice and guidance. This year, Careers Wales (2021) launched its new five-year vision, 'Brighter Futures'. This new strategy aims to provide 'high quality, impartial careers guidance and coaching that can have a positive impact on...education, employment and wellbeing outcomes' (Careers Wales, 2021, p.4). It applies to primary and secondary school pupils, young people aged 16-18 in learning and work, and adults requiring careers support and guidance.

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To complement this strategy, the Welsh Government published draft guidance to support the cross-cutting theme of careers and work-related experiences (CWRE) for the Curriculum for Wales. Independent advice was commissioned to review recent publications by Estyn, the Welsh Government and the Gatsby Foundation (2013) for consideration during the development of the guidance material.

In our thematic report 'Post-16 partnerships' (Estyn, 2021q), we found that many learners value the advice and guidance they receive at school, but a minority feel that this does not offer enough information about pathways other than A level study, beyond the school's own sixth form. Many learners believe that they do not know enough about the quality of the options available to them and the outcomes achieved by learners who recently completed those courses.

