

North East Ambition: Careers Hubs Extension Background information

Following the launch of the new [National Careers Strategy](#) (December 2017), the updated [Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges](#) (Jan 2018) and the launch of the [Careers Strategy Implementation Plan](#) (April 2018). The CEC created 20 Careers Hubs nationally in 2018. The North East LEP was proud to establish the North East Ambition: Careers Hub of 40 schools and a College Careers Hub of 10 colleges in 2018.

The North East Ambition: Careers Hub works with schools, colleges and businesses to ensure the Good Career Guidance Benchmarks are delivered in each school and college. Our schools and colleges are developing a shared vision of how they will work together to improve outcomes for young people, so that each and every student in the region can identify routes into the world of work. This is a critical part of our North East Ambition Strategy, which is a core component of the region's Strategic Economic Plan.

We are pleased to announce that the North East LEP will be bidding for an extension to our Careers Hub. We will bid for the resources to add a further 20 schools to our existing Schools Careers Hub of 40 schools.

The North East LEP invites you to apply to become part of the extended School Careers Hub.

How do I apply to become part of the North East Ambition: Careers Hub?

Those mainstream schools, special schools and pupil referral units who wish to apply to be part of the 'North East Ambition: Careers Hub' should do so by completing the **North East Ambition: Careers Hub Extension – Expression of Interest Form** and returning it by **midnight 13 February**.

This form requires you to provide information about your school and produce a series of statements about your current careers provision and why you wish to be part of a careers hub.

Please note if your school applied previously to be part of the careers hub we strongly encourage you to apply again to this extended careers hub.

The expression of interest requires approval from your Careers Leader, your Headteacher/Principal, and a Governor.



Compass Tool

Compass is an online survey tool, produced by the Careers and Enterprise Company to help schools identify their starting points against the 8 benchmarks of good career guidance. Compass can be accessed [here](#)

To ensure that we have a range of starting points from schools and (in relation to benchmark achievement) we require schools to provide, in their expression of interest form, their current Compass score (i.e. the number of benchmarks the school/college currently achieves).

What are we looking for?

All mainstream schools, PRUs and special schools in the North East LEP region are eligible to apply for the Extended Careers Hub.

When selecting schools to be part of the careers hub extension, we are looking for a range of different starting points in relation to benchmark achievement. In the original national pilot of the benchmarks 50% of schools and colleges started by fully achieving 0 benchmarks. We are also looking for a range of different school / college types, Ofsted grading, socio-economic contexts and geographies.

The North East Ambition: Careers Hub is a community of practice and therefore reflects the North East LEP area's education landscape.

What will you receive?

Each school in the hub will:

- Benefit from the support of a Hub Leader, who will support them to implement and achieve the benchmarks
- Be part of a community of Careers Leaders, developing a shared vision for achieving the benchmarks and improving outcomes for all young people
- Be allocated £1,000 to help initiate careers activity in your school/college and support the achievement of the benchmarks and the overall aims of the careers hub.

In addition:

- The hub may have the opportunity to bid to receive 'virtual wallets' from the Careers and Enterprise Company 'Employer Encounters Fund'
- Some schools within the hub will receive Careers Leader Training bursaries



What will be expected of you?

Each school will commit to:

- Naming a designated Careers Leader
- Signing an MOU that outlines expectations, roles and responsibilities
- Be an active member of the Careers Hub; attending meetings, providing data, submitting case studies and working with evaluators
- Working closely with the Hub leader, Enterprise Coordinator and other Careers Leaders within the Careers Hub
- Sharing good practice with schools/colleges outside of the Careers Hub as part of North East Ambition
- Using Compass to assess starting points and chart progress throughout the duration of the two year pilot of the Career Hub and sharing this information with the Hub leader and Enterprise Coordinator
- Complete an initial audit of careers provision using compass. This data should be submitted in the Expression of Interest by 13 February 2019.
- Engage with businesses and enterprise advisers and use the Career and Enterprise Company 'Tracker' tool to record activity
- Begin Hub delivery work by September 2019.

Lead schools

If you wish your school to be considered a 'lead' school/college within the extended North East Ambition: Careers Hub please also complete 'Lead School' section attached to Expression of Interest Form'.

Expression of Interest forms should be completed and submitted via email to the North East LEP via dawn.bewick@nelep.co.uk

This Expression of Interest Form must be submitted by **midnight 13 February 2019**.

What happens next?

- Schools interested in being part of the extended North East Ambition: Careers Hub should return to their completed Expressions of Interest form to dawn.bewick@nelep.co.uk at the North East LEP by **midnight Wednesday 13 February 2019**.
- Once Expressions of Interest have been received, the North East LEP will use this information to select schools that will form the North East Ambition Careers Hub. These schools will be named in the Careers Hub application that will be submitted to the Careers and Enterprise Company on **Friday 22 February 2019**.
- As part of the selection process, the North East LEP and partners will be expected to attend a Careers Hub interview in London in **March 2019** to discuss the application.
- We will be notified if the North East LEP area has been successful in securing an extension to the Careers Hub by **end of April 2019**. We will inform schools of the outcome at this point.
- Those schools that have been selected to be included in the North East Ambition: Careers Hub application will be notified, as will those schools that have not. Selection to be part of the North East Ambition: Careers Hub application does not reflect the quality of your careers provision, but ensures we have a diverse range of schools and colleges from a variety of locations, contexts and starting points.
- If successful, the extension to the North East Ambition: Careers Hub will be initiated from **September 2019**.

What happens if my school is not part of a Careers Hub?

All of the support that you currently receive through North East Ambition, for example the Regional Careers Leader Network Meetings, the Careers Directory, LMI Toolkit, Enterprise Adviser Initiative etc. will all still be available as it currently is. Schools within a Careers Hub will simply benefit from some additional focussed support.

