

Working for Education Business Links in Devon

Devon Education Business Partnership has, for a number of years, worked to develop a positive relationship between education and business in support of quality education. Devon schools, through affiliation to the Partnership and use of DfEE funding, have benefited from services that range from curriculum support and staff development to industry days and a Health and Safety checking service for Work Experience. For a fuller description see the Devon EBP section at www.careers-cd.org.uk

With the advent of the Local Learning and Skills Councils from 1 April 2001, DfEE has arranged that each Council will contract with one organisation only to deliver education business work across all education phases (this despite the Learning and Skills Councils' overall remit for matters post-16)

Devon EBP, while still retaining its own identity, will be operating in a consortium with the following organisations; Tamar EBP, Cornwall EBP, Business in the Community, SETPOINT Devon/Cornwall, The Prince's Trust, The Trident Trust, Young Enterprise, Understanding Industry, Engineering Education Scheme, CITB Curriculum Initiative and the Engineering Council. This Consortium will be known as Westcountry Education Business Services (WEBS), and will go live with a comprehensive website at the beginning of April. As part of the Consortium's work a highly ambitious programme, supported by the Department of Trade and Industry, is beginning, which will work towards every student in Devon and Cornwall at each Key Stage receiving some experience in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

The moves by the Secretary of State to give Heads more freedom in the Curriculum will inevitably create a demand for more work-based learning. While welcoming this move, this Partnership believes that students right across the ability range have entitlement to the benefits to be found in work related learning. Professor David Hargreaves, Chief Executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). summarised the situation in a recent address as follows:

"the knowledge economy demands higher educational standards""innovation in the workplace is one of the keys to a successful knowledge economy""so education must help people to become innovative""in this regard how teachers teach is potentially as important as what they teach ""how schools and classrooms are organised is important too""carefully designed and highly disciplined innovation at the professional and institutional levels could generate the evidence of what works"

Devon Education Business believes that it has a major role to play in stimulating and brokering activities that lead to the realisation of these aims.

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