**Written evidence submitted by EBP (BYC029)**

**General 1:**

The EBP ([www.the-ebp.co.uk](http://www.the-ebp.co.uk)) has a history of working with schools in regard to work experience and promoting good quality work experience to support student workplace interaction.

What do young people and businesses expect or get from the experience it’s difficult to say what’s to be expected. It differs from person to person and company to company. There are however some underlying factors - A taste of working life - Stepping outside comfort zone - Problem-solving.

**General 2:**

Since 2010, work experience has not been a compulsory part of secondary education. This has meant that dramatic funding cuts have occurred within schools and stretched staff across multiple roles, with the role of career advisors slowly decreasing during this time. OFSTED deemed that 75% of schools are failing to provide adequate work experience.

**General 3:**

Many of the opportunities for the students are coming from a ‘who you know’ basis, either on behalf of the students, parents and family contacts or the teachers. So many young people are denied meaningful interactions with the world of work, and many employers are frustrated by the lack of skills and experience they are looking for.

**Young people 4:**

More needs to be done to better prepare young people for the workplace. Key areas that need addressing are improving ‘soft skills’ such as communication, team working and resilience, as well as better careers advice and engagement with business in schools.

**Schools and businesses 6 - 11**

Relevant Work experience was rated by 66% of recruiting employers as critical or significant factor looked for in candidates – UKCES Employer Perspectives Survey 2014. We believe it is a shared responsibility between business, education and government to address this to increase collaboration between education providers and businesses.

* We offer work experience to students across 26 sectors
* 795 businesses work with us to offer work experience placements.
* Since 2010, we have helped 43,026 young people into work experience placements.
* Businesses see the benefit of “Growing their own” by providing work experience and training programmes so they can develop the skills relevant to the sector they are in this is the main motivator in offering a placement as employers see the need to open young people’s eyes to different sectors and roles within those areas.

**Other services and organisations 12 – 15:**

EBP are a Social Enterprise focused on providing support for young people to gain the skills and knowledge to help their transition into work and we would welcome further funding from the Government to allow schools and college’s to provide the financial support for young people to have the opportunity to participate in work experience of a Varity of models that will suit employers and schools.

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