**Written evidence submitted by Staffordshire Youth Union (BYC037)**

**Executive summary**

Generally, work experience should provide an insight into the world of work and the skills required for different professions. There seems to be some discrepancies on the provision of work experience between different socio-economic classes and geographical locations. Technology and the internet have a role to play in advertising work experience, however this is not standardised across the board and some young people have better knowledge of and access to these services.

**1. What does “good quality work experience” look like? What do young people and businesses expect to get from it?**

Good quality work experience should give young people new skills, especially in teamwork. Young people expect to gain more knowledge, gain new networks and realise the opportunities that are available for them in preparation for the world of work.

**2. How important is good quality work experience to a successful industrial strategy?**

An enjoyable work experience would also provide an incentive to work in the industrial sector in the future. Good quality work experience may encourage young people to get secondary sector jobs and increase the industrial output.

**3. What evidence is there that work experience boosts social mobility?**

Taking part in good quality work experience may encourage young people to continue in education to work towards a well-paid job. However, it seems that it is harder for young people from poorer backgrounds to take part in good quality work experience.

**4. How do differences between young people (eg. geographic location, socioeconomic background, ethnicity, disability) affect the work experience opportunities they people have?**

It is harder for young people from poorer backgrounds to take part in good quality work experience. Those who have more money can afford smarter clothes and present themself better and are more likely to be hired. Not every school offers work experience as part of their curriculum and it depends on the location of the school. Schools located where there are more organisations that can offer work experience can provide better quality work experience as young people are able to travel more easily to their placement.

**5. How could resources to help young people find out about and access work experience be improved?**

Schools have started using websites and forums such as Unifrog, however this is not provided across the board. More young people look online for opportunities and organisations should be encouraged to advertise work experience opportunities online.

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