Written evidence submitted by Liverpool Compact (BYC048)

As we have never tracked student destination levels I am unaware how Work Experience would boost social mobility.  
  
14-16 Block Work Experience as a taste (not necessarily of a chosen career path) of what working life is about - getting in on time, attending regularly, working with others, and having to stay until 5.00pm in the evening, generally opening young people's eyes to a future outside or beyond academia.  
  
Post 16 Block Work Experience, as a way to a possible future career path or assisting within a particular programme of study.  
  
The barriers as we all know are lack of funding and schools mostly wanting students to go out the last two weeks of the July term after exams. Employers find this frustrating as it is the start of their holiday season, so less staff are about to support the programme and with most schools preferring this period there are just not enough employers to go round.   
  
When we were funded and WRL was compulsory we were able to calendar schools into two week blocks throughout the year and rotate the July months between schools over a period of time so all had a "bite of the cherry". However, when schools had to pay themselves they obviously wanted what they wanted- July.  
  
Good quality Work Experience may mean moving away from the traditional block placements of one or two weeks and having a mixture of this alongside a project based experience over an extended time period for the students which could assist them in their subject learning (bringing it to life) or in turn could be beneficial to a particular individual employer, solving a problem they may be encountering.   
  
We delivered a successful Extended Work Experience Programme for some schools however, this is a much more time consuming activity as it is specifically tailored so the costs for this type of experience are much more expensive than running a block programme.   
  
But the wheel always tends to be reinvented- just a shame the experience, contacts, knowledge and good will brokered over nearly 30 years will have gone out with the bath water.

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