Statement by Dr Deirdre Hughes, OBE, Chair, on behalf of the National Careers Council, 20 June 2012

‘The National Careers Council has been given a unique opportunity to inform and provide advice to Government advise Ministers, and to engage with other interested parties, on solution-focussed approaches that assure quality careers provision for young people and adults. Helping individuals to make a success of their lives in challenging times and to feel suitably equipped to make decisions on future work and learning opportunities requires good quality information and support networks. The Council’s task is to consider how careers provision can become more accessible, and to find ways of ensuring individuals can better understand the labour market, the qualifications and the experiences that employers value. We shall be looking at high performing systems, within and outside of England, that offer fresh ideas and new thinking.

The next three Council meetings are scheduled to be held in September 2012, January 2013 and March 2013. As Chair, I shall be meeting with interested parties to find ways of connecting organisations and individuals to feed into the Council’s work. The Council will develop a more detailed work plan for each of the three work strands and look at ways to involve others in its work. It is extremely heartening to find that so many organisations and individuals have already made contact with us in writing and via email. These range from careers sector organisations and alliances to leading UK industries. We have also been contacted by individual careers advisers who have ideas and expertise to contribute. Thank you for your interest and support.'

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