

## **Careers Service provides excellent support**

The recent validation of the Careers Service demonstrates that high quality advice and guidance is provided to young people in Guernsey and that the work of the Service is having a positive impact on students.

As part of the validation, the Careers Service commissioned the Centre for Guidance Studies in Derby to review how well the Service was working, through discussions with partner agencies and service users. Areas of review included the management and organisation of the Service, service delivery to students, value added and impact of the service and partnership working. The Validation Report highlights examples of excellent practice such as careers events organised by the Service and the positive impact these events have on students and their career planning.

The website [www.careers.gg](http://www.careers.gg) is described as a 'high quality, informative resource' for students, parents and teachers and the Report notes that it is used extensively within the schools.

The validation reported that the Careers Service staff had built good relationships with the careers teachers in each school and that the schools valued the expertise of the Careers Service staff in supporting the students in a realistic and impartial way. The Report concluded that guidance interviews with students were of a high quality and demonstrated the ability of the Careers Advisers to help move students forward with their ideas and support them to make realistic plans for their future.

Working with young people not in education, employment or training was also recognised as an essential part of the work of the Careers Service and the Report comments on how partner agencies viewed the Service as providing realistic advice to young people that is backed up by an up-to-date knowledge of legislation and employment.

'Many people think we just work in schools but we work closely with agencies in the island to try to engage with those young people in the community not accessing education, employment or training,' said Head of Careers Service, Sarah Stonebridge.

'We support these young people with a realistic, honest approach to their options.

'The Careers Service is very pleased to have received such a positive report. We are a small service and so we have to ensure our work is effective and adds value for students, schools and employers. It is reassuring that the review shows we are supporting young people effectively through the hard work and commitment of the staff.'

The Careers Service has responded to the outcomes of the Validation Report in setting clearer aims and objectives, focusing on more work with parents, building stronger links with employers and supporting the schools as they prepare for the raising of the school leaving age and greater work related learning opportunities within the 14-19 strategy.

'It is essential that the Service responds to the evolving opportunities available and meets the needs of young people in the island. Working with agencies, schools, parents and employers is absolutely crucial if we are going to support young people in the most effective way possible,' said Miss Stonebridge.