

General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland Professional Development Bursary

CPD ACTIVITY

Update my knowledge of Career Education and Guidance by spending one week work shadowing Career Advisers employed at main Career Service NI offices in Belfast.

HOW THE NEED WAS IDENTIFIED

The need was identified as a result of the school's ongoing integration of Occupational Studies and LLW within our curriculum. Senior Management were keen to raise awareness within the school of the benefits of this broader curriculum.

Also the school is involved with the Pilot for Employability for Years 8, 9 and 10 and it would benefit from a member of staff updating their knowledge on employment issues incorporating career planning and entrepreneurial issues.

OUTCOME IN TERMS OF IMPROVED PRACTICE BY THE TEACHER

As a result of spending one week with the Career Manager and Advisers based in Gloucester House I have gained an in depth knowledge of the partnership which exists between Career Advisers and schools and the services they offer each school in order to meet statutory obligations. I have gained a greater understanding of the options open to post-16 students and how to prepare students prior to meeting with their Career Advisers. I believe I will be able to prepare more up-to-date resources to enhance the Career Education delivered within our curriculum and have a greater understanding of the importance of the skills and qualities being promoted through the Revised Curriculum at Key Stage 3 and 4.

OUTCOMES/BENEFITS OF THE ACTIVITY IN TERMS OF IMPROVEMENTS IN PUPILS' LEARNING EXPERIENCES

The pupils will benefit from a more comprehensive explanation of the significance of the transitional process at Year 10 and post-16. They will benefit by being more thoroughly prepared using appropriate research and resources before meeting with their Career Adviser. The pupils will be better prepared by having attendance records, qualification details/projections, strengths/weaknesses, CVs, job search and other relevant documentation in their career folders to bring along to the interview. Through Employability delivered within LLW they will have on-going reviews of their action plan which can be monitored yearly. They will also have better access to more up-to-date resource materials. All of this will enable them to make informed choices regarding their careers.

HOW THE SUCCESS OF THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY WILL BE EVALUATED

The activity will be evaluated on an ongoing basis. The end goal is to:

- Make more effective use of the links between Career Service and schools.
- Provide a greater understanding of the role of Career Guidance.
- Provide an up-to-date list of resources.
- Engage students through Career Education//Employability on more effective career planning.
- Facilitate more opportunities for Connected Learning within Career Education and other programmes.

HOW THE EXPERIENCE, SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE GAINED WILL BE SHARED WITH OTHER TEACHERS

I will use the Inset Programme to educate colleagues within their department and at a whole school level to enhance their understanding of the links between Career Advisers/Career Services and school. I will also give them information on up-to-date resources.

EFFECTIVENESS OF ACTIVITY

I really valued from the experience of spending a week in a very different environment with professionally qualified career experts. Shadowing several of these career experts was an insightful experience and I gained first-hand knowledge of skills and qualities needed to carry out effective career guidance. I also received a lot of information on useful resources available to enable me to be a more effective Career teacher.

I had the privilege of visiting several training centres to witness first-hand their work and the link between them and the Career Advisers. I got a greater insight on vocational qualifications eg NVQ Level 1 and 2. I got updated on how Jobskills and Modern Apprenticeships operate.

During my week I gained a more comprehensive understanding of the services offered by Career Services NI, their Level of Service Agreements and how they plan to attain them. I saw their commitment to the disengaged/disadvantaged/special needs clients in order to facilitate their needs and enable them gain valuable training and qualifications.

I also gained from attending a number of clients' interviews and developed a greater understanding of how to conduct Career Guidance interviews.

Overall I feel much more confident about delivering Career Education and Employability and working with Career Advisers. I know I will be a more effective Career Teacher as a result of this CPD and the students will benefit

by being better prepared in career planning. I also will be better equipped to assist in the areas of training and interviewing.

FUTURE PLANS

I intend to continue to avail of the resources and assistance offered by Career Service NI. I will maintain links with the Career Advisers to up-date my knowledge. I will also attend relevant courses to continue developing my knowledge and skills for Career Education and Guidance. Meanwhile I will contact other relevant organisations to up-date my knowledge of self-employment issues. I will also continue to avail of all the training provided to ensure I remain up-dated on the Revised Curriculum and its implementation.

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