



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas  
and prosperous New Year



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## SPOTLIGHT

### CFE highlights failings of the welfare system in achieving sustainable employment

CFE has carried out research on behalf of the London Development Agency (LDA) to measure patterns of employment retention and progression in London. The report, **'Staying In, Moving Up: Employment Retention and Progression in London'**, finds that too many Londoners are trapped in a 'low pay, no pay' cycle with one in two out of work Londoners back on benefits within six months of leaving them.

Sarah Hakeney, Joint Managing Director of CFE said: "Even heavily subsidised high profile welfare to work programmes, such as New Deal are not designed with sustainability in mind. Our research found that two in five lone parents who are placed into work through this programme return to benefits within 13 weeks."

The findings will be used to inform the design of some of the London Development Agency's programmes and projects in 2010 and 2011. Director of Skills and Youth at the London Development Agency, Stephen Evans, said:

"The report outlines the scale of the challenge we face in ensuring that Londoners are not only helped into work, but supported to stay in employment and progress into better jobs and careers."

The full key findings and link to the executive summary can be found [here](#).

## KEY PUBLICATIONS

### Evaluation of the Apprenticeship vacancies system

CFE's first phase report of the longitudinal evaluation of the Apprenticeship vacancies system has been launched. On behalf of the National Apprenticeship Service and the Learning and Skills Council the research aims to evaluate the success of the Apprenticeship vacancies system, including the views of learners, employers and learning providers.

The findings and link to the full report can be found [here](#).

### Review of third sector engagement with Apprenticeships

Commissioned by the Learning and Skills Council (South East), CFE has carried out research to identify the key operational principles of good practice and potential barriers faced when promoting Apprenticeships to third sector employers. Best practice identified included recruiting apprentices in line with the organisations charitable remit and offering the apprentices intense support.

The full report and case studies can be found [here](#).

## CFE NEWS & COMMENT

### Response to Skills for Growth

CFE welcomed the Government's national skills strategy, Skills for Growth. James and Sarah, Joint Managing Directors of CFE, highlighted a number of areas for further consideration including the progression of apprentices to higher education, university technical colleges, the potential job losses associated with simplification of the skills system, and ensuring that quality data is used in the rating of any skills provider and courses. **The full comment piece can be found [here](#).**

### HE Framework 'Higher Ambitions': Perhaps employers will do more when government does less

CFE's James Kewin considers the HE Framework on its release in early November. James highlights the responsibilities that the framework places on employers and points out that "government interventions aimed at increasing the skills of the workforce should be grounded in the day to day reality of running a business, particularly an SME." **The full comment piece can be found [here](#).**

### Will new Apprenticeship funding lead the way to increased employer engagement?

Apprenticeships have once again been high on the skills agenda with a renewed advertising campaign to employers, announcement of funding for Apprenticeship Training Agencies and Group Training Associations, and a commitment to further increase apprenticeship places. Sarah Hakeney highlights that "CFE strongly believes that greater employer involvement in the Apprenticeship programme is vital to the achievement of the Government's targets." **The full piece can be found [here](#).**

### CFE to deliver flagship graduate recruitment surveys

In October, CFE was appointed by the Association of Graduate Recruiters (AGR) to deliver its high profile bi-annual surveys. AGR's surveys are a barometer of the state of graduate recruitment in the UK providing up-to-the-minute and in-depth information on vacancies, salaries and applications both by sector and by region. The winter survey has this week closed and the findings are due to be published in February. **The full press release can be found [here](#).**

### CFE discussing skills and sharing best practice

We have been sharing our skills and employment expertise at a number of events over the past few months. This has included Sarah Hakeney chairing an event discussing the skills strategy and how to make skills activism a reality and our work with the Slough Working Better advancement prototype. **More information about all these events can be found [here](#).**

## ABOUT CFE

CFE are research and consultancy specialists in employment and skills.

We have been providing our expert services to public and private sector clients for over twelve years. We re-invest our profits to fund innovative research projects and our Policy Insight series.

[> MORE](#)

## CFE WEBSITE

Take a look at the CFE website for more information about our [work](#), our [people](#) and regularly updated [news](#) area.

Keep your eye out for future developments to the website in the new year in line with our new branding.

## CFE ON TWITTER

We have recently joined Twitter so please follow us [here](#).

## NEW PROJECTS

CFE is working on a number of [projects](#). Projects won in the last few months include:

**Defining English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) priorities in Slough**  
Slough Borough Council  
[> MORE](#)

**Developing a training and professional development strategy**  
Kent Innovation and Enterprise, University of Kent  
[> MORE](#)

**Employer demand for higher level skills in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire**  
Leap Ahead Lifelong Learning Network  
[> MORE](#)

**Graduate Recruitment Survey**  
Association of Graduate Recruiters (AGR)  
[> MORE](#)

**Measuring the impact of higher education on employers**  
University of Teeside  
[> MORE](#)

**Sustainable development partnership review**  
Tamworth Borough Council  
[> MORE](#)

**Tamworth and Lichfield Economic Partnership Support**  
Tamworth Borough Council and Lichfield District Council  
[> MORE](#)

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