

[News story: Education Secretary unveils schemes to tackle social mobility](#)

New initiatives to tackle social mobility and help pupils from all backgrounds reach their full potential were announced today (12 July) in a keynote [speech](#) by the Education Secretary Justine Greening.

Speaking at the Sutton Trust Social Mobility Summit, to mark its 20th anniversary, the Education Secretary confirmed that leading national and local businesses have signed up to provide careers advice to young people in 12 '[Opportunity Areas](#)', which were announced in her [speech at PwC in January](#), with the support of a £2million government-backed fund.

Building on the programme of activity being led in these areas, Justine Greening also named the schools that will act as Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) Research Schools in the Opportunity Areas. These schools will get a share of £3.5million to gather and share evidence of best practice on social mobility to help teachers tackle this issue in their schools.

Sir Kevan Collins has been appointed as the Evidence Champion for the Opportunity Areas to ensure intelligence is shared effectively across the twelve areas. The Chairs of the Partnership Boards – responsible for driving forward activity in each Opportunity Area – have been named for Derby, West Somerset and Scarborough.

Alongside this, Justine Greening reaffirmed her commitment to supporting the teaching profession, enabling teachers to be the best they can help every pupil to achieve their potential.

The announcement comes as new research published by the Sutton Trust shows that tackling social mobility could boost our annual GDP by £39billlion – the equivalent of £590 per person.

Education Secretary Justine Greening said:

This is not just a mission for government, or a mission just for the Sutton Trust. It is a generational mission for all of us.

We don't have to accept Britain as it has been in the past. Ours is a generation that can build something better. It is a simple idea. It is a powerful idea. It is an urgent idea.

I believe now we absolutely need to fix social mobility, and make sure it happens. And make sure this is a country where there are no barriers to anybody becoming the best that they can be.

Supporting the teaching profession

Teachers are the great drivers of social mobility and can have the biggest impact on unlocking young people's talents. Earlier this year, the Education Secretary [outlined her vision for the teaching profession](#), announcing a £75million Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund to invest in high quality professional development for teachers and leaders working in challenging areas. Justine Greening confirmed that £20 million – the first round of this – will go to programmes from September.

The Department is also setting aside £10 million from the Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund for teachers and leaders in challenging schools to take part in the newly reformed, gold standard National Professional Qualifications to ensure these schools have great leaders.

This approach will help to deliver school improvement and drive social mobility across the country and help to tackle regional inequalities in educational outcomes.

Business support

Research shows that young people who have four or more workplace encounters while at school are 86% less likely to be NEET and on average will go on to earn 18% more than their peers who did not.

The Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC) is collaborating with 40 national and local 'cornerstone' employers to prepare pupils for the world of work at more than 260 secondary schools and colleges in the Opportunity Areas.

Employers that have signed up to this £2million initiative include: Adecco; Butlins; KPMG; Michelin; Mantra Media; NatWest; PwC; and Rolls Royce. Together with the CEC, these employers will give tailored careers support to young people in the Opportunity Areas, including:

- Giving all pupils aged 11 – 18 access to at least four inspiring 'encounters' with the world of work; and
- Giving all secondary schools and colleges in the Opportunity Areas access to a local senior business volunteer (Enterprise Adviser), who will work with headteachers and college principals to unlock local business relationships and advise on their careers programme.

This commitment is backed by leading business representatives, such as the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB). These organisations will encourage their members to offer more young people opportunities to help prepare them for future careers through activities such as mentoring, work experience, mock interviews and career talks.

Claudia Harris, Chief Executive of the Careers & Enterprise Company, said:

Over 40 of our economy's leading businesses have stepped forward to ensure we can increase young peoples' exposure to the world of work following clear evidence that this improves employment outcomes.

The scale of collaboration between businesses announced today will make a much-needed dent in social immobility in key areas and we are proud to be co-ordinating these efforts.

EEF Research Schools

The 11 Research Schools named by the [Education Endowment Foundation](#) will act as local centres of excellence, working with schools in the Opportunity Areas to deliver evidence-based approaches to tackling social mobility and provide resources for teachers. This will support local teachers to be the best they can be and tackle the regional inequalities surrounding educational outcomes for local pupils.

The 11 Research Schools have been named as:

- Hastings Research School at Ark Blacklands Primary Academy;
- Stoke-on-Trent Research School by The Keele and North Staffordshire Alliance;
- Norwich Research School at Notre Dame High School;
- Oldham Research School by The Greetland Academy;
- Blackpool Research School at St Mary's Catholic Academy;
- Doncaster Research School by Partners in Learning;
- Scarborough Research School by Esk Valley Alliance;
- Derby Research School at Wyndham Primary;
- West Somerset Research School at The Blue School, Wells;
- Bradford Research School at Dixons Academies; and
- East Cambridgeshire and Fenlands Research School at Littleport CP School.

EEF Research Schools have already developed programmes to help schools make the most of teaching assistants, training to support literacy in the early years and backing to develop Research School leads.

Justine Greening also announced that Sir Kevan Collins, Chief Executive of the EEF, would become 'Evidence Champion' for the Opportunity Areas. He will support the regions to better use evidence to improve outcomes and social mobility prospects for young people, particularly those from disadvantaged homes.

Sir Kevan Collins, Chief Executive of the Education Endowment Foundation, said:

We know that there are big differences in educational standards across the country. Reaching these 'coldspots' is one of the biggest challenges we face in our drive to improve social mobility. While evidence of 'what works' is one of our most useful tools to do this, we know that research on its own is not enough to make a

difference in the classroom.

Research Schools are breaking down these barriers even more, so that research doesn't stay in the pages of academic journals but has a real impact on classroom practice. Putting teachers in the driving seat can make all the difference.

The Education Secretary also confirmed the Chairs of three of the Partnership Boards that will be responsible for driving forward the activity in each Opportunity Area. They are:

- Derby – Professor Kathryn Mitchell, Vice-Chancellor of Derby University;
- West Somerset – Dr Fiona McMillan OBE in West Somerset; and
- Scarborough – Sir Martin Narey.

All three will bring a wealth of experience and credibility to these roles and help to tackle the challenges unique to each of these areas.

Press release: Intimidation of Parliamentary candidates: Committee announces short review

The independent Committee on Standards in Public Life will be conducting a short review of the issue of intimidation experienced by Parliamentary candidates, and the broader implications of this for other holders of public office, following a request from the Prime Minister.

Press release: Highways England event to inspire the next generation of transport professionals

Around 24 Year 6 pupils, aged 10 and 11, from Bristol primary school St Werburgh's joined traffic officers, engineers and managers for a comprehensive tour of the ROC on Tuesday, 11 July, as well as taking part in business skills workshops and hearing about career options with Highways England.

Highways England technical leader and event organiser Garry Packer, said:

I'm very focused on raising children's aspirations and confidence so that they will see their potential, and this open day was an ideal way of doing that while promoting Highways England as a great place to work.

The pupils were really enthusiastic, asking thought-provoking and interesting questions and getting stuck into the workshops, which included sessions on communication, visioning the future and team work.

I really believe that by engaging children from a young age, the next generations will be more interested in a whole range of transport related careers and that can't be a bad thing when over 25 per cent of school leavers need to take up science or engineering to meet the demand in the South West region alone.

Traffic Officer Dom Hudd shows pupils around a Highways England patrol vehicle

Highways England has been working with St Werburgh's Primary School for a number of years, taking part in annual careers events, which also involved Year 6 pupils from Cabot Primary School, Glenfrome Primary School and St Barnabas Church of England Primary.

Helen Faulkner, deputy headteacher at St Werburgh's, said:

The children really enjoyed the visit and found it very inspiring. As well as giving them ideas about what they might like to do in their future careers it has helped them understand the type of skills employers are looking for.

Traffic Officer Dom Hudd and St Werburgh's pupils at Highways England's Regional Control Centre at Avonmouth

Highways England has also been working with the charity Envision and Bradley Stoke Community School on a mentoring scheme designed to build confidence and business skills. This year a group of young people mentored by Highways England made it in to the final of Envision's Community Apprentice competition.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

[Press release: Review into abuse and intimidation in elections](#)

The Prime Minister has asked the [Committee on Standards in Public Life](#) to conduct a review into the issue of intimidation experienced by Parliamentary candidates.

The review was announced by Chris Skidmore, the Minister for the Constitution, in a Westminster Hall Debate. It follows reports of abuse experienced by Parliamentary candidates who stood during the 2017 General Election.

The independent committee will look at the nature of the problem of intimidation. They will consider the current protections and measures in place for candidates, and will report back to the Prime Minister with recommendations for further tackling the issue.

A number of candidates have come forward about abuse they experienced during the campaign for the 2017 General Election. The All Party Parliamentary Group on Antisemitism recently published their Electoral Conduct Report which included reports from candidates of all parties of racist graffiti, death threats and abuse on social media.

Prime Minister Theresa May said:

I have been horrified by stories from colleagues about the scale and nature of the intimidation, bullying and harassment they suffered during the general election campaign.

Robust debate is a vital part of our democracy, but there can be no place for the shocking threats and abuse we have seen in recent months.

We must all work together to banish this behaviour, and I would urge MPs and candidates from all parties to report their experiences to this review so we get the fullest possible picture – and can take the action required to stamp it out.

Minister for the Constitution, Chris Skidmore said:

A cornerstone of our democracy is that everyone's voice matters and no-one should be intimidated by abuse. We need to ensure that our democracy is a tolerant and inclusive one, in which all future candidates for election will not be dissuaded or intimidated from standing for public office.

The committee will set out how they will take forward the review in due course.

News story: Vertu Corporation Ltd: information for employees and creditors

The luxury smartphone manufacturer Vertu Corporation Ltd (company registration number 07753443) has been wound up in the High Court. The Official Receiver has been appointed as liquidator.

Information for employees

If you were an employee of Vertu Corporation Limited you may be entitled to unpaid wages or holiday pay and redundancy pay and compensation in lieu of notice.

All claims must be made [online](#). The liquidator will provide you with the information you need to make your online claim.

If you are having difficulty making a claim or have any questions about the claim process you can contact Redundancy Payments Enquiry Line:

If you were self-employed and provided services to Vertu Corporation Limited you are not entitled to a redundancy payment. You will be a creditor in the liquidation.

Information for creditors

If you have supplied goods or services to Vertu Corporation Limited for which you have not been paid you will be a creditor in the liquidation.

We will provide further details about how to make a claim in the liquidation as a creditor.

Information for suppliers

Any purchase orders issued by the company before the winding up order should be considered cancelled with immediate effect. Any monies owing in relation to previous orders will rank as an unsecured claim in the liquidation. Please do not supply any goods ordered prior to the winding up order without the authorisation of the liquidator or one of his authorised representatives.

Goods and services supplied during the period of the liquidation will be paid for out of the assets coming into the hands of the liquidator provided that the order is in writing and signed by one of the authorised representatives. The liquidator is currently reviewing purchase orders issued by the company before his appointment and is in the process of contacting relevant suppliers about those orders and providing them with details of the authorised representatives.