Executive Summary

This report provides recommendations to support the delivery of Covid-19 compliant CEIAG activities in schools and colleges in the academic year 2020 / 21. The research undertaken has a particular focus on how higher education providers engage with young people within this new context. It explores current and planned approaches to delivery of CEIAG activities in schools and colleges and examines challenges and potential solutions. The findings can be used as a basis for further collaboration and development of resources for the new academic year and beyond.

Careers Leaders, Higher Education Providers, the Local Enterprise Partnership and Career Guidance Companies contributing to the study cited a number of potential challenges including: labour market uncertainty; concerns around the priority of CEIAG; time / space within the curriculum; students' IT access; engagement; safeguarding; impact; evaluation; and tracking.

Despite the challenges discussed throughout, the 'new normal' has led to innovative thinking and trialling new ways of working, generating some positive outcomes in terms of student engagement. One key message was that the activities most valuable and impactful during this period are those that are short/bitesize, accessible and incorporating two-way interaction. A joined-up approach will also enhance this offer. Schools, colleges and education providers should work together to build on existing quality resources to meet the needs of young people.

Analysis of survey responses has given rise to the following recommendations:

Recommendations for Higher Education Providers
- Create accessible, bitesize resources in a variety of formats (videos, virtual presentations, interactive and paper-based), including those that are mobile friendly
- Consult with young people, schools and colleges to design activities appropriate to their needs
- Ensure that appropriate safeguarding procedures are in place
- Work closely with the LEP to expand on and contribute to their toolkit of resources
- Evaluate resources to ensure impact and continue improvement. Support this by capturing and monitoring data about engagement and participation

Recommendations for Schools/Colleges
- Work closely with providers to ensure online activities and resources meet student needs and there is sufficient preparation and evaluation time/support
- Evaluate activities by gathering student voice as landscape continues to develop (schools and colleges to share information with HE providers and vice versa).
- Choose quality assured resources, for example, accessing a 'toolkit' of online resources, including those from Go Higher West Yorkshire, The Careers and Enterprise Company and UCAS
- Plan/allocate time during 2020/21 for a range of small trips and visits, if appropriate
- Update your careers web page to include new and updated resources
- Ensure systems and procedures are appropriate for digital resources - use surveys to accompany activities in order to gather feedback on who has accessed them
- Use a system for recording CEIAG activities that meets the needs of your institution and allows for reporting and evaluation
- Adapt risk-assessments and safeguarding procedures relating to delivery of online activities and share with activity providers.