Recommendations for the Government

1. Develop a consolidated, consultative approach to Further Education and skills policy
   - Consult with awarding organisations, sector experts and employers on proposed changes once the Post-16 Skills Plan is passed, before progressing plans further.
   - Establish an independent body responsible for evaluating the Government’s policies.
   - Create a central resource outlining the current FE and skills reform agenda.
   - Publish key guidance documents at an earlier stage and ensure plenty of notice for implementation.

2. Ensure learning opportunities for youth and disadvantaged groups
   - Publish full equality assessments at the time of a white paper.
   - Make more apprenticeships available for the under-24s and unemployed adults.
   - Protect FE funding for disadvantaged groups.
   - Undertake a thorough review into the effects of the Area-Based Reviews once these are completed.

3. Focus on quality not quantity
   - Ensure more apprenticeships are available at higher levels, and in sectors with the highest skills shortages.

4. Ensure greater ownership and engagement from employers
   - Consult with awarding organisations, sector experts and employers on proposed changes once the Post-16 Skills Plan is passed, before progressing plans further.
   - Establish an independent body responsible for evaluating the Government’s policies.
   - Create initiatives to encourage employers and providers to deliver high-quality apprenticeships.
   - Consider assessing the policies on other forms of training.

Read more at www.cityguildsgroup.com/sense-and-instability