

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

- Provide greater transparency around the operational detail of the reformed apprenticeship system, but minimise bureaucracy as far as possible.
- Create initiatives to encourage employers and providers to deliver high-quality apprenticeships.
- Consider broadening the levy to fund other forms of training.