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**N E W S R E L E A S E**

**Top marks for Bucks Careers Hub**

[Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/) (Bucks LEP), is delighted by the news that its Buckinghamshire Careers Hub has been recognised as the highest achieving in the country by the Careers and Enterprise Company.

The [State of the Nation 2019](https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/research/publications) report, which represents the most comprehensive assessment of careers education in England, has placed Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership as the top performing area for careers provision by achieving the highest average number of [Gatsby](https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/schools-colleges/understand-gatsby-benchmarks) benchmarks of 4.2 - compared to the national average of 3.0.

Andrew M. Smith, Chair of Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership, said:

“We are delighted to see Buckinghamshire LEP as the top area in the country for careers provision. We are making excellent progress in Buckinghamshire, working together to improve careers awareness and skills development in all our secondary schools as part of the Careers and Enterprise Company’s national programme.”

This recognition from the Careers and Enterprise Company, has been secured by the comprehensive and proactive programme of careers support provided by Bucks LEP’s Skills Hub and its Enterprise Adviser Network (part of the Careers and Enterprise Company’s national network).

**more…**

**Top marks for Bucks Careers Hub: 2**

Professor Rebecca Bunting, Chair of Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership Skills Board, said: “It is excellent that the Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership has been recognised as the highest performing LEP for skills provision and development, and reinforces our career strategy where strong partnerships between employers and schools are vital to inspire and inform young people about different careers and develop their work ready skills.”

In July 2018 Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership became one of only 20 ‘Careers Hubs’ around England, transforming careers education in schools and preparing young people for the world of work. The Careers Hubs form part of its national Careers & Enterprise Company network, whose work Bucks LEP carries out in this county.

Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership’s Skills Hub, and its Enterprise Adviser Network, supported over 150,000 employer-student encounters in Bucks in 2018/19, connecting schools and businesses and organising skills competitions in schools with employers including Bosch, East-West Rail and the National Film & Television School, and work place visits to British Standards Institution and Emerson.

Bucks LEP is a business-led Local Enterprise Partnership which promotes economic growth and prosperity across Buckinghamshire. Buckinghamshire is a significant wealth generator for the UK economy, and the commitment of over £73m in Local Growth Funds is unleashing ambition and creativity in the county. This funding is enabling the delivery of new road and rail infrastructure, better skills and business opportunities and enhanced digital connectivity to support sustainable economic growth in the county which sits at the heart of the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Arc.

**Ends**

**Note to editors**

The [State of the Nation report](https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/research/publications) draws on data collected through the Compass self-assessment tool and covers the following benchmarks:

* A stable careers programme
* Learning from career and labour market information
* Addressing the needs of each pupil
* Linking curriculum learning to careers
* Encounters with employers and employees
* Experiences of workplaces
* Encounters with further and higher education
* Personal guidance

The aim of Bucks LEP’s[Skills Hub](https://oppsinbucks.org/) is to make a difference to young people’s employability while addressing the needs of employers. Buckinghamshire Skills Hub is working to ensure all schools have access to effective and impactful employer interactions.

The [Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership](http://buckstvlep.co.uk/) (Bucks LEP) is a business-led ‘partnership of equals’ between local government and the private sector, building the conditions for sustainable economic growth in the County. Formed in January 2012, the partnership balances a uniquely strong collective business voice with a cohesive elected local leadership. Coming together to engineer the conditions needed to drive forward business prosperity in the county and beyond, Bucks LEP recognises that an important part of this is to support education and skills providers and employers to ensure our young people have the right skills to meet the needs of the economy, including the growth sectors such as life-sciences, space, creative industries and advanced engineering.

[Buckinghamshire Business First](http://www.bbf.uk.com/) (BBF), is the Growth Hub for Buckinghamshire and is backed by Buckinghamshire based entrepreneurs, thousands of SMEs and Local Authorities.  BBF provides the link between public policy and the business community in Buckinghamshire and works with partners to create a dynamic business environment in the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain.

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