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Dear Bill

During the Conservative Party Debate on education and employment opportunities held on 22 October I committed to write to you regarding the Government's plans to provide Jobcentre Plus support for schools across England. I am happy to confirm this remains the ambition and that good progress is being made towards its realisation.

Jobcentre Plus support will start in Birmingham in November this year and will then be extended to a further nine pathfinder areas during the 2015/16 academic year. Full rollout across the rest of England will be completed by March 2017.

The policy intent is to help schools in their statutory duty to deliver independent, high quality and impartial careers advice. The support will be demand-led by schools and will be directed at those young people identified as being at risk of becoming NEET (not in employment, education or training), or who are otherwise disadvantaged in the labour market.

The support will help facilitate an effective transition from school to work, training or further study and will focus on three key areas: advising on routes into traineeships and apprenticeships; highlighting the importance of work experience using Jobcentre Plus's extensive network of employers; and providing realistic advice on the local labour market (including advice on soft skills).

To ensure this support supplements rather than duplicates or replaces other support available to schools DWP are working with the Careers and Enterprise Company, LEPS, LAs and the National Careers Service to align our offer.

I am copying this letter to all Peers who took part in the debate and a copy will be placed in the House Library.

Yours
Natachi

BARONESS EVANS OF BOWES PARK

Lord McKenzie of Luton
House of Lords