

## Girlguiding; Ambition; Design Council

### The Shape of Things to Come: young people and future jobs, skills and careers

Sarah Weir, CEO, Design Council (Chair)  
Abigail Harris, Girlguiding Advocate (young person)  
Emma Revie, CEO, Ambition  
Cllr Paul Bettison, Local Government Association  
Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP, Chair Education Select Committee  
Justine Greening, Secretary of State for Education

Sarah Weir began by stating that jobs will be changing in the future due to artificial intelligence and we can see some of these changes already. Weir said the social side of work is very important and should not be understated. Weir said that the design economy is worth roughly £72 billion and this is not just related to creative industries but finance and transport, she emphasised that design is imbedded into our daily lives in ways we do not immediately recognise.

Weir then moved onto to students and said that less people are studying subjects related to design, lots of focus has been on STEM subjects and this is very important but subjects related to design should not be neglected. She also said that women need to be represented better in the field and these changes will only be produced by the industry working together to achieve them.

Paul Bettison was the next speak and he started by saying the education and skills system is centralised and local needs are not fully considered. Bettison said the fact £10.5 billion of skills and education funding goes from one funder into 20 different schemes is confusing for those interested in the sector. Bettison gave some interesting statistics saying that by 2024 there will be:

- over 4 million too few highly skilled people
- 2 million too many with intermediate skills
- 6 million too many with low skills

He then went on to speak about his experience interacting with multinational companies saying they want everyone they can get with a useful degree but if you don't have qualifications they are not interested in you. Bettison said he is particularly interested in creating jobs for those who do not have a degree as these jobs are currently being neglected.

Emma Revie said that most skills being developed currently will not be useful in the future and the skills that will be useful should be prioritised. She has noticed that it seems as though the barriers for young people growing up in situations of multiple disadvantage are higher.

Abigail Harris spoke from her experience and used statistics to support her view saying only 27% of girls think politicians understand them. Harris also bemoaned stereotypes that are currently present and used the example of computing which is seen as a skill for men.

She said it is not right that boys and girls will get different career advice even if they have the same skills and interests.

Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening, then entered the room as was asked for a couple of remarks. Greening committed her department to putting gender equality into place and allowing women to go on and have great careers like many men can.

Chair of the House of Commons Education Committee, Robert Halfon was the last speaker he stated his desire for there to be an apprenticeship available for every person between the ages of 16-25. He said the ability to earn and learn has had some apprentice's lives changed and the fact 90% go onto work or further training shows how useful they can be. The best way in his opinion to get more people taking up apprenticeships is by giving them more prestige and making them desired throughout the country.

He finished his remarks by saying he wanted gender stereotypes to be switched around in learning and for more women to be involved in STEM and more men in nursing. He said apprenticeships are a great way for people from a tough background to get themselves on the ladder to a great career.