

Enterprising Minds

Enterprise, further education
and the future UK economy

Update & round table summary • Summer 2012

Project Launch

On 25 June, the Carnegie UK Trust published the first national report of its ground-breaking Enterprising Minds research project. Delivered through a partnership with 17 further education colleges across the UK, Enterprising Minds surveyed 1600 students, exploring attitudes to enterprise, business, and future prospects in a challenging economic climate.

The survey was delivered using a new peer-to-peer research technique, which saw the Trust training and appointing 51 student research interns across the country. Some of those enterprising interns joined college principals, senior staff and political leaders for the report launch at the House of Commons in London.

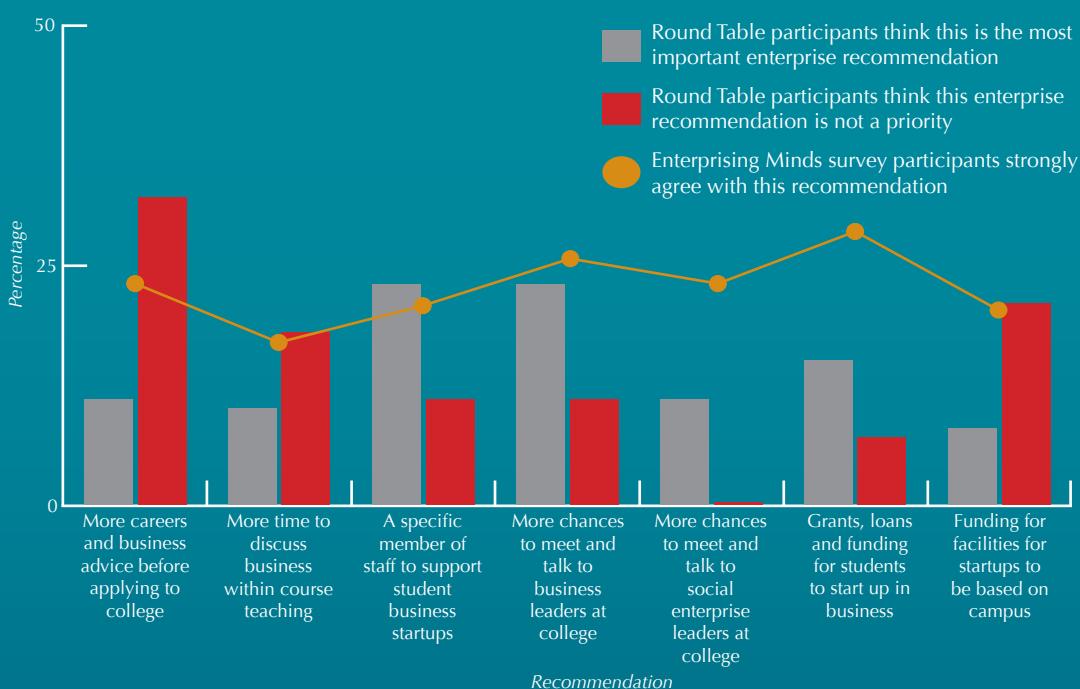
The research identified a clear link between the quality and commitment of enterprise education and the



From left to right: John Healey MP, former Cabinet minister and launch host; John Hayes MP, UK minister for adult skills; Carnegie UK chief executive Martyn Evans; and project leader Jim Metcalfe

enthusiasm of young people to pursue enterprising and productive work options. Following discussions at the highly successful launch and discussion round table, the Trust will now be working with a range of partners over the coming months to support student enterprise.

Recommendations and proposals for improving enterprise provision in education

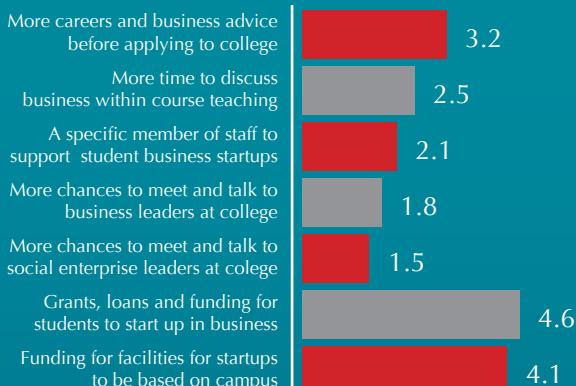


UK Practitioners' Round Table

As part of the national report launch, 25 college principals, enterprise officers, research interns and students joined us in Parliament's Portcullis House for a round table discussion about enterprise education in the UK.

The varied debate included a consultation on recommendations drawn from the student survey (see tables to the left and overleaf), as well as a discussion about key points to inform our future work. See over the page for more...

How hard would it be for colleges to deliver these recommendations right now?



(1 = very easy; 5 = very difficult)

- ✓ Colleges have often under-utilised **physical assets** that could be used to support student-led enterprise; small businesses could be using campus teaching, catering and office spaces out of hours to give them a head start, with help from college staff
- ✓ The successful Welsh **enterprise strategy** has been built over time around student engagement; colleges have been able to bid for resources to fund enterprise staff on campus that work with students directly and also with fellow teaching staff
- ✓ Making a college enterprise-ready takes more than staff and funding; it's about a **cultural shift** that runs

through an institution, touching learning, extracurricular activity, engagement of local businesses and more

- ✓ **Staff development** is key, and seeing opportunities in what people already do to adopt enterprise learning; enterprise is as much about creating innovation in teaching as it is learning about business design
- ✓ The **inspection** regime sometimes fails to support and motivate educators to be business and enterprise focused; and it is difficult to measure the **impact** of enterprise in a way that is easily comprehensible to evaluators and policy makers
- ✓ Enterprise lead staff can get bogged down in grant application and lose focus on student needs; the development of **enterprise interns** within some colleges has been successful in increasing enterprise capacity without major resource demands
- ✓ Some educators are very advanced in incorporating enterprise learning and activity, with many others lagging behind; enterprise is a piecemeal element in UK education with institutions finding their own way and adopting approaches based on ideas they stumble over – there is **little coordination** of the student enterprise experience, or **shared learning of what works best**
- ✓ Many **schools** are not talking about enterprise, and **parents** are not engaged in enterprise learning, so there is little 'user pressure' to deliver in this area

Next Steps

1. To help address the lack of evidence and understanding about student expectations of enterprise education, the Trust will be holding a series of **student group discussions** across the UK over the Autumn to build on its published research
2. To understand how national enterprise strategies can support learners and educators without stifling local innovation, we will be arranging further **round table consultations** in each of the UK's national capitals, drawing together leaders and practitioners from all education sectors and government
3. Watch out for a major announcement in November 2012 launching a new **competition project**, that will harness young people's **retail innovation** to help address high street decline

Get in Touch

The Trust wants to work with organisations and individuals who share its enthusiasm for promoting student enterprise and creating enterprising opportunities for young people.

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