



From Rachael Campey, Chief Executive

I doubt if we will forget the summer of 2011 for a long time. All of us have a stake in the after-the-riots debate, and the key platforms for that debate are education and employment.

In a recent [blog](#), education correspondent Mike Baker highlighted a thought-provoking post by David Price OBE, a senior associate at the Innovation Unit. He says David Cameron's 'big society' went up in smoke along with the riot-torn buildings. He calls for "a national education debate on what we want our young people to learn in school. Because the disengagement for many of these young people begins in school, when their interest in learning is sacrificed in pursuit of high-stakes testing and the attendant 'drilling-and-killing', worksheets..."

I think the cause and impact of the riots go much deeper and, in fact, the values David Cameron is trying – and failing – to get across with the 'big society' are relevant. But David Price is right to highlight the issue of disengagement. Does it need another national **education** debate? I'm not sure it does.

Michael Gove has said his reforms should be judged on whether they help to narrow the gap in attainment between rich and poor pupils. That may be – but they will lead us nowhere unless they narrow the gap between the engaged and disengaged. The frightening aspect of the riots was how much **wealth** was seen as an attainment. Indeed, it seemed in those days and nights, the sole objective in life for many. That's what needs debating.

Rachael's regular blogs can be found at: www.feds.co.uk

Transforming skills investment and ambition

A seminar with Michael Davis, Chief Executive, UK Commission for Employment and Skills

Wednesday 28 September, 5.30 – 7.00pm, London

Following the Coalition Government's review of non departmental public bodies, the UKCES emerged with a reformed and refocused role. No longer a top-down advisory body for government, it is working to become a true vehicle for sustainable economic growth and social partnership. Its purpose is to drive up employer investment in, and better use of, skills at all levels across the UK.

At this FEdS seminar, Michael Davis will give a privileged insight into the Commission's changing role, how it intends to make and win the case for greater business and individual commitment to skills, and what this means for those working in business and education.

This event is free for FEdS members. Guests and non-members will be charged £30 + VAT. To register, contact: coral.rayfield@feds.co.uk

A FEdS paper will be circulated to members following the seminar and will be available in the members' area of the website.

Forthcoming FEdS events

In November, David Smale, head of employer accounts for London and the south-east at the **National Apprenticeship Service** will lead a debate on the practical issues around apprenticeships.

In December, David Cragg, deputy chair of **WorldSkills 2011** and national director of development at the Skills Funding Agency, will discuss the legacy of WorldSkills and how it might showcase all that's best in UK vocational training in the years to come.

FEdS members will be notified directly when these events are confirmed, and will be able to attend them free of charge.

Details will also be available on our website:

The Roe Review

After a series of delays, the Roe Review on Post-16 Education and Vocational Training in Scotland has finally been published with little fuss or fanfare.

The Scottish Government will consider the report's 46 recommendations "in the light of" the Christie Commission's report on the future delivery of public services, published in June.

Although there is logic behind this coordinated approach, it is another move which appears to 'downgrade' the Roe Review and its potential impact.

A FEdS' Briefing Paper on the review will be circulated to members and will be available in the members' area of the website.

Connect. Collaborate. Make a difference.



Taking stock on education & skills

When the Coalition Government reached its first anniversary in May, there was general consensus that it was going further and faster than any other modern administration.

Not only has it been introducing new policy at an unprecedented rate, but it is creating a radically different public sector landscape and completely reshaping relations between government, service provider and citizen.

FEoS' Summer Stocktake is available to members on the website, looking at where we are on the reform agenda and what's still to come this year. Our monthly *UK Briefing* will be available early in September.

Learning & Skills in the 21st Century

The Goodison Group in Scotland and Scotland's Futures Forum are running a morning conference on 8 September entitled "Education & Skills in the 21st Century". It will take place at Lloyds Banking Group headquarters in Edinburgh.

GGIS was established by FEoS founder Brian Stevens, and continues to be run by Brian in his 'retirement'. It is chaired by Sir Andrew Cubie.

For more information and to register, contact events@ggis.org.uk.

Networking beyond the norm

Three events are being organised by members of Scotland's 'pan-professional networking group', of which FEoS is an active member.

- The Law Society is running a networking event alongside their annual conference, on Monday 5 September, 6-9pm at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow. The fee is £35 including VAT. Contact: update@lawscot.org.uk.
- A free *Business confidence & economic review briefing* is being organised by network member ICAEW on 20 September, 7.45-9.30am, in Scone, Perth. Register at: <http://www.icaew.com/en/events/2011/september/rimsbrk110920-business-confidence-and-economic-review-briefings?utm=widget>
- *Networking with Confidence* will be held on Wednesday 30 November, 6-8.30pm, at the Royal Scots Club in Edinburgh. The speaker will be Fraser Murray of Rock the Boat Consulting. The fee is £17.50 including VAT. Contact: angela.gardner@lineone.net.

News...news...news...news...news...news...news...

- The DfE's [Positive for Youth consultation](#) runs until 15 September, inviting comments on a number of papers designed to shape a cross-government policy statement on services for young people. They include papers on 'The role of businesses in supporting young people' and 'Helping young people succeed in learning and find a job'.
- From September 12th, an integrated English all-age careers advice phone line will start to operate on 0800-100900. Young people will still be able to access help on the Connexions Direct helpline until the National Careers Service is launched in April 2012.
- Newcastle College, West Lancashire College and New College Durham have all been granted powers to award foundation degrees after three years of scrutiny by the Quality Assurance Agency.
- The National Apprenticeship Service is to launch a promotional campaign at the end of September, aimed at employers.

All these stories and more will feature in the next FEoS UK Briefing due early September.

Members' News

Learndirect's Make It Count Week, runs 12-18 September 2011.

In conjunction with organisations such as the National Apprenticeship Service, Transport for London, totaljobs and Centrepoint, the aim is to get people and businesses to sign up to learning. www.learndirect.co.uk

Accompanied by **ifs School of Finance** Vice Principal, Rod McKee, five financial capability students from Kent recently visited the House of Commons as part of the All Party Parliamentary Group's inquiry into financial education for young people.

The students spoke to over 20 MPs about the benefits of the ifs Certificate and Diploma in Financial Studies.

HTI is holding its 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner on October 12th 2011 to raise money for its peer mentoring scheme 'Inspire'.

Sponsors include Jamie Oliver, WPP, PWC and the Professional Footballers' Association. <http://www.hti.org.uk/gala-dinner/>

The Global Association of Corporate Universities & Enterprise Academies, chaired by Professor Richard Dealtry will hold its third free webinar on corporate university strategies on 15 September, 12.30-1.30pm.

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/434385126>

Epic has launched 'GoMo Learning', a multi-platform tool that enables the creation of customized mobile-learning applications across iPhone, iPad, Android and Blackberry. www.gomolearning.com

Mary Curnock Cook of UCAS will be speaking at an event organised by Richard Hadfield of Intellect on 26 October.

<http://www.intellectuk.org/intellect-calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2011/08/15/1816/760/>

Gary Forrest is organising a series of regional conferences tackling the 'employability challenge'.

http://garyforrest.net/papers_11.html