

A new CIPD report shows that six in ten employers do not offer any routes into their organisation for non-graduates.

Based on a survey of almost 800 employers, the research reveals that the majority of employers (71%) believe they have a role to play in tackling youth unemployment. But a quarter of employers have not employed anyone aged 16 to 24 in the last 12 months, and only 56% plan to do so in the coming year.

The CIPD said that too few employers are engaging with young people at school or college to build their employability skills or provide work experience placements, apprenticeships, internships or entry level jobs for young people.

The research also suggests that some employers hold negative perceptions of young people, although nine out of ten employers who have recruited a young person are either very satisfied (26%) or fairly satisfied (65%) with their performance.

“Employing young people has clear benefits to business and society, but there is some work to do in encouraging and supporting more employers to take on and develop young people,” said Peter Cheese, CEO at the CIPD.

“The step change that is needed to improve education to work transitions will not be achieved through good will and government policy alone.

“We need to make the business case crystal clear. We need to promote the best routes for young people in to employment ... Government needs to continue to promote the issues and opportunities, as well as encourage businesses through funding schemes and other support mechanisms,” he said.