

Connexions Arrangements in Derby Statutory Duties and DCSF Requirements

The Duties:

- 1. Careers Education and Careers Guidance (Information, Advice and Guidance):**
 - 1.1** Under Section 8 of the Employment & Training Act 1973 (which will remain in force), the duty is to “provide an information and guidance (IAG) service to young people attending schools and colleges which equips them to enter suitable employments”.
 - 1.2** In addition, there is a statutory requirement for schools to deliver a programme of careers education from Year 7.
- 2. The Education and Skills Bill replaces the duty within Section 114 of the (to be) repealed Learning & Skills Act 2000 “to provide services to encourage, enable or assist the effective participation of 13-19 year old young people in education & training”.**
- 3. Section 140 of the Learning & Skills Act 2000 (replaced by the Education & Skills Bill) covers the duty to provide assessments to “statemented” young people leaving Year 11 (to be extended to encompass “statemented” young people leaving Year 12). There is also a power to provide such assessments as considered appropriate to all other young people with learning difficulties or disabilities.**

4. Related Targets:

These are the PSA and supporting targets linked to the Connexions grant funding which, become the responsibility of any organisation receiving the funding to deliver the services:

4.1 Reducing the proportion of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET). This includes the new requirement for the ‘September Guarantee’ for Y11 and Y12 leavers.

4.2 In planning to deliver the NEET target, services should consider how they will:

- contribute to the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy target to increase the proportion of teenage parents in employment, education and training;
- support the Youth Justice Board in increasing the proportion of supervised offenders undertaking of education, training and employment;
- tackle over-representation in the NEET group of young people with learning difficulty and/or disability, from specific BME groups, care leavers and other vulnerable groups.
- Increasing the proportion of 19 year olds achieving level 2.

In the academic year Sep 06 – August 07 Derby reported:

One to one interventions pre-16: 12,752; post-16: 21,901; total **34,661**. These are in addition to class-work and group-work sessions

There are approximately **400** section 140 assessments completed annually

From Jan – Dec 07 over **5,500** young people and parents from Derby contacted our helpline for help on a range of issues

93.5% of Y11 leavers entered positive progression in 2007

5. Raising Aspiration

In discharging services in line with the statutory duties and requirements, Connexions contributes to the city's priority to raise the aspiration of young people. Through universal services which, involves direct contact with young people in schools and colleges, personal advisers help young people develop career management skills so that they can make successful transition to adult and working life.

This work is supported through the provision of information on a range of subjects including careers and personal development issues available in Connexions libraries in schools and colleges, through information on websites, Connexions Derbyshire helpline. We also provide information for parents/carers.

Extra Support for Targeted Groups of Young People

For some young people, universal services will not be enough to meet their needs. They need additional support to overcome personal difficulties that prevent them from making or implementing choices, progressing through learning and the subsequent transitions into adult and working life. We work closely with staff in schools, colleges and other agencies to identify those that will need more intensive support from ourselves and/or other agencies. We give this extra support to young people in learning and those who are unemployed.

Staff also support the development of the Careers Education and Guidance Curriculum in schools through providing information and curriculum resources for schools and colleges, INSET for teachers and supporting the development of quality provision in line with the nationally recognised Career Mark standard. This is done within the context of the city's strategy for 14-19 learning.

Strategically we are also supporting 14-19 developments in the city through involvement in the 14-19 Partnership and its sub groups. We are leading the CEG and Inclusion subgroup ensuring that schools and colleges are developing Information Advice and Guidance in line with national standards, and developing Careers Education and Guidance in line with Career Mark standards

6. Integrated Youth Support Services

Strategically we are contributing to the development of the integrated children and young people's services in the city:

- Senior Managers are represented on range of groups including Children and Young People's Executive, Locality Management Group, Workforce Development Groups, Information Sharing Group, Commissioning Board, Teenage Pregnancy Board, Safeguarding Board, Children In Care Strategic Group etc
- Economic Well Being Outcome Group is chaired by Senior Manager from Connexions and Connexions is represented on the other outcome groups
- We are working closely with colleagues in the City to develop a Youth Offer as part of the ICYP arrangements
- Work closely with Enthusiasm including funding provision for targeted groups of young people to re-engage them in learning
- Dedicated resource to Aspire the Leaving Care team in the city, hostels in city through YMCA, YOS, Teenage Parents etc

- We made a significant contribution to JAR/APA through our lead responsibility for ECWB
- Connexions senior managers are represented on Community Safety Partnership, Joint Commissioning Group, and Youth Crime Prevention Group

7. Connexions Contribution to Area One Pilot

- Connexions contributed to the developments in Area One from the outset and produced supporting documents e.g. Welcome Pack for staff
- Connexions Area Manager for Derby seconded to manage the ICYP developments in Area One and a Connexions Team Leader in Derby is leading the 11-19 Youth Support Team In Area One
- Youth Service staff in Area One (and staff from the SPACE) using the Connexions Profile Database to record activity and support the performance management and reporting
- Contributing to development of Multi Agency Partnership Agreement with schools (building on good practice from Connexions)

8. Other specified requirements:

- 8.1** Maintenance of a client management system. The National Client Caseload Information System (NCCIS) provides the basis of a client database, management and tracking system, records assessments and interventions, measures NEET Targets, September Guarantee etc to specified standards.
- 8.2** Benefits liaison: The Connexions Service is required to provide young people with general information about Young Persons Bridging Allowance, Jobseekers Allowance, extended Child Benefit and other social security benefits.
- 8.3** The Connexions Service is required to effectively promote and communicate information about Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and Care to Learn (C2L) to young people, and to support them through the application process.

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