

Newsletter for parents and carers

May 2011

Connexions Closure

Due to the withdrawal of the £7million Area Based Grant, Essex County Council has reviewed the way in which it delivers the Universal Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) element of the Connexions service and it has been agreed that the Connexions service will

cease at the end of the current academic year, 31 July 2011. This will mean that Connexions Centres/One Stop Shops will close and there will no longer be dedicated Personal Advisers based at your son/daughter's school to provide careers advice and guidance.

The current Connexions website www.essexconnexions.co.uk will be re-developed to continue to support your son/daughter.

The Government is introducing a National Careers Service with young people being able to start accessing new arrangements for careers guidance from April 2012.

Post July your son/daughter can continue to access support from Connexions Direct helpline on 080 800 13 2 19, text 07766 4 13 2 19, 8am-2am, 365 days a year or access information through www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople

Continuing services – Targeted Support

Support is still available from Targeted Personal Advisers. A targeted youth service is currently being designed to provide further support to young people. Further information will be released as the service is designed.

Continuing services – Additional Needs Team

The Connexions Additional Needs Team has not been affected by the changes to the Universal Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) element of the Connexions service and will continue to support young people on a Statement of Special Educational Needs.

The current Connexions Additional Needs Team is part of Essex County Council's Transition Pathway Service and will now be called 'Transition Pathway Service, Additional Needs, Personal Advisers'.

Special Needs Provisions: The Additional Needs Team will continue to support young people on a Statement of Special Educational Needs within special needs provisions, both in and out of county. Therefore the service that schools receive will not change and pupils will continue to receive support from their designated Personal Adviser.



Mainstream Educational Provisions:

In light of the closure of the Connexions Universal IAG service, Essex County Council is enlarging the Transition Pathway Service to incorporate interim additional posts to provide appropriate support to eligible young people with a Statement of Special Educational Needs in mainstream educational provisions.

This interim service is being developed over the summer and will be up and running in September 2011, ready for the new term. The interim service will be re-assessed in July 2012 at which time the National Careers Service will have been introduced.

Contact details: If you have any questions regarding the Transition Pathway Service, Additional Needs, Personal Advisers please call Transition Pathway Service on 01245 430411 or email: transition.pathwayservice@essex.gov.uk

Where can my son/daughter get information about careers?

It is important that your son/daughter researches and makes an informed choice about their career path and the job roles within it. This will help ensure they are making the best decision for their future. Researching the labour market will help them understand current trends such as future skills shortages, declining industries and the demand for university places.

<http://icould.com> - icould gives young people the inside story of how careers work. The icould storytellers relate, in their own words, their real life career journeys.

www.sscalliance.org - The Alliance of Sector Skills Councils represents,

promotes and supports the work of the 23 Sector Skills Councils across the UK. Your son/daughter can visit the Sector Skills Council's website for their career interests, providing information on qualifications, skills and attributes needed to progress as well as information on where to get work experience.

www.fasttomato.com - A careers education and guidance system, designed for students who are considering their future career options. This may be covered in school but free guest passes are available.

www.careersbox.co.uk - Careersbox offers advice and information on career opportunities with a range of short films of occupations within a number of different career types.

<https://nextstep.direct.gov.uk> - Next Step helps adults get advice for future skills, careers, work and life choices. Offering over 750 job profiles, providing essential information that can help your son/daughter understand what different job roles involve and how they can get into this career path.

Where can my son/daughter get information about their options post-16?

During year 11 at school your son/daughter will need to make some key decisions about their future as they are reaching the end of compulsory education. This will include decisions on not just what they will study, but where and how. The September Guarantee provides all young people aged 16 or 17 and coming towards the end of school, a guaranteed offer of a place on an appropriate course that meets their needs. If your son/daughter decides they do not wish to continue in full-time education you can support them to look for a job with training.

To support your son/daughter with these important decisions you can download the *It's your choice* booklet, which provides information and advice on post-16 options and includes a parent/carer supplement. Visit www.education.gov.uk/publications and search for 'It's your choice'.

www.apprenticeships.org.uk -

Apprenticeships are an excellent way of combining qualifications and workplace experience. As an employee, your son/daughter can earn as they learn, gaining practical skills from the workplace.

www.direct.gov.uk - Provides information on the choices available at 16, skills needed for work and information about learning at a college or sixth form. You can find in-depth information about the range of qualifications available to your teenager including AS/A levels, NVQs, The Diploma and more. In addition you can search for vacancies provided by Jobcentre Plus on

<http://jobseekers.direct.gov.uk>

www.stepon.org - The 14-19 online prospectus for Essex provides information on courses in and on the borders of the county. Encourage your son/daughter to contact the provider directly to see what is on offer and to get the most up to date information.

Where can my son/daughter get information about their options post-18?

Many young people choose to go into higher education (HE). Some opt to go straightaway; others may decide to take a gap year first. This could give them valuable life experience and enhance their CV when they come to apply to university or for a job. The following diagram outlines the options available to your son/daughter.



www.ucas.com - UCAS supports students to make informed choices about higher education, guiding them and their parents/carers through the application process.

www.opendays.com - Find out when open days are being held and encourage your son/daughter to attend.

<http://vinspired.com> - vinspired connects 16-25 year olds with volunteering opportunities.

www.gap-year.com - Provides information on planning a year out.

www.bestcourse4me.com - This website shows you the link between what people study and their employment record afterwards.

www.direct.gov.uk/uni - Provides financial help for new full-time and part-time HE students: information on student loans, grants and bursaries. In addition you can search for vacancies provided by Jobcentre Plus.

www.apprenticeships.org.uk -

Apprenticeships are an excellent way of combining qualifications and workplace experience. As an employee, your son/daughter can earn as they learn, gaining practical skills from the workplace.

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk - Provides details of distance learning, gap years, foundation degrees and apprenticeships.

www.stepon.org - The 14-19 online prospectus for Essex provides information on courses in and on the borders of the county. Encourage your son/daughter to contact the provider directly to see what is on offer and to get the most up to date information.

Websites to support your young person with life issues

Advocacy and children's rights

www.crae.org.uk
www.getreadyforchange.org.uk
www.barnardos.org.uk

Bullying and online safety

www.bullying.co.uk
www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Drugs and alcohol

www.talktofrank.com
Helpline: 0800 77 66 00
Essex Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service
Phone: 01245 493311
Email: eypdas@childrenssociety.org.uk

Eating disorders

www.b-eat.co.uk
Helpline: 0845 6341414

Helping young people out

www.catch-22.org.uk
www.princes-trust.org.uk
www.nacro.org.uk

Homelessness

www.shelter.org.uk
Helpline: 0808 800 400

Leaving care

Essex Advocacy Service - for children and young people in care
Helpline: 0800 652 4546

Money

www.moneymadeclear.org.uk
www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Sexuality

www.fflag.org.uk
Helpline 0845 652 0311
www.theouthouse.org.uk
Helpline: 01206 869191

Sexual health

www.brook.org.uk
Helpline: 0808 802 1234
www.fpa.org.uk
www.nhs.uk/worhtalkingabout

Transport

www.essex.gov.uk/schooltransport
www.travel-training.co.uk
Email traveltraining@essex.gov.uk
Helpline: 01245 437767
www.transportdirect.info

Volunteering and personal development

www.dofe.org
www.essexyounglife.co.uk

Young carer

www.essex.gov.uk/youngcarers
Email: young.carers@essex.gov.uk

Young parent

www.direct.gov.uk/caretolearn
www.gingerbread.org.uk
<http://familylives.org.uk>
www.essexparents.org.uk
