



AGENDA

SELECT COMMITTEE - APPRENTICESHIPS

Thursday, 10th January, 2013, at 9.00 am

Ask for: **Theresa Grayell**

**Medway Room, Sessions House, County Hall,
Maidstone**

Telephone **01622 694277**

Tea/Coffee will be available 15 minutes before the start of the meeting in the meeting room

Membership

Mr K Smith (Chairman), Mrs C J Waters (Vice-Chairman), Mr R H Bird, Mr A R Chell, Mr L Christie, Mr D A Hirst, Mr R J Lees (co-optee), Mr S C Manion and Mr M J Northey

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

09:00 - Interview with **Sue Dunn**, Head of Skills and Employability Service,
09:45 am and **Richard Little**, Skills and Employability Manager, KCC Skills
and Employability Team (Pages 1 - 4)

10:00 - Interview with **Jon Thorn**, Head of Business Development, National
10:45 am Apprenticeships Service (Pages 5 - 8)

11:00 - Interview with **Peter Hobbs**, Chief Executive, Kent Channel
11:45 am Chamber of Commerce (Pages 9 - 12)

12:00 - Interview with **Lindsay Jardine**, Director of Operations, Kent
12:45 pm Association of Training Organisations (KATO) (Pages 13 - 16)

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

Members of the Select Committee are asked to remain in the meeting room for 20 minutes at the end of the public part of the meeting for summing up.

Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services
(01622) 694002

Wednesday, 2 January 2013

This page is intentionally left blank

Kent County Council

Apprenticeships Select Committee

Hearing 1

Thursday 10th January 2013

Biography

Sue Dunn, Head of Skills and Employability Service and Richard Little, Skills and Employability Manager; Education, Learning and Skills Directorate, Kent County Council

After having spent 15 years working in schools in Somerset, Dorset and Kent, during which Sue ran a range of vocational courses including post-16 programmes with an emphasis on employability and traineeship, Sue left teaching to work at Canterbury Christ Church University on curriculum development and teacher training. She then became a school inspector for both primary and secondary schools before gaining an MSc in Strategic Leadership from Salford University in 2005.

Since this time Sue has held a number of varied posts as a KCC officer including the development of the Kent Vocational Centres and now heads the Skills and Employability Service.

The new Skills and Employability Team within ELS brings together the work and functions of the 14 to 24 Innovations Unit, the monitoring of provision for Alternative Curriculum and Pupil Referral Units, the Apprenticeship team (formerly in the Customer and Communities Directorate) and the strategic development for Community and Adult Learning.

This page is intentionally left blank

APPRENTICESHIPS SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 1

Thursday 10 January 2013

Witness Guide for Members

Below are suggested themes and questions. They have been provided in advance to the witnesses to allow them to prepare for the types of issues that Members may be interested to explore. All Members are welcome to ask these questions or pose additional ones to the witnesses via the Committee Chairman.

Themes and Questions

Sue Dunn, Head of Skills and Employability Service, and Richard Little, Skills and Employability Manager, Education, Learning and Skills Directorate, Kent County Council

- Please introduce yourself and outline the roles and responsibilities that your posts involve.
- Please provide an overview of the areas of responsibility covered by the Skills and Employability Service.
- Please provide data with regards to apprenticeships in Kent.
- What are the benefits of apprenticeships for businesses and young people?
- Who are the main providers of apprenticeships in Kent? In which sectors are the majority of apprenticeships in Kent located?
- To what extent, in your view, do apprenticeships meet local labour market needs and the expectations of growth industries in Kent? Are local partnerships with regards to apprenticeships working effectively in Kent? To what extent are employers engaged in these processes?
- To what extent does the quality of apprenticeships across Kent vary? If there is variation what, in your view, are the causes?
- In what ways – if any – can Kent County Council improve the quality and provision of apprenticeships in Kent? What, if anything, can KCC do to increase demand for apprenticeships from both employers and young people in Kent?

- Please discuss the impact and implications of RPA (raising the participation age in compulsory education) on the growth of apprenticeships for 16-18 year olds.
- Please discuss the role and impact that local career education and information, advice and guidance have in enabling young people in Kent to make informed choices about their future education and employment.
- Please inform the Select Committee of any policy changes at national and local level with relevance to this review.
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?

Kent County Council

Apprenticeships Select Committee

Hearing 1

Thursday 10th January 2013

Biography

Jon Thorn, Head of Business Development in London and the South East, National Apprenticeship Service

The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) supports, funds and co-ordinates the delivery of Apprenticeships throughout England. They are responsible for increasing the number of Apprenticeship opportunities and providing a dedicated, responsive service for both employers and learners. This includes simplifying the process of recruiting an apprentice through Apprenticeship vacancies, an online system where employers can advertise their Apprenticeship job vacancies and potential apprentices can apply.

In line with the Grant letters from the Departments for Business Innovation and Skills and for Education, NAS has identified its priorities and underpinning delivery objectives. In 2012-13 the Government expects to invest around £1.5 billion in Apprenticeships. This will be used to support over 700,000 apprentices in training in 2012-13 and deliver up to 500,000 starts, while continuing to increase efficiency and deliver value for money. Their business plan also includes the National Audit Office and Public Accounts Committee recommendations, especially fostering Apprenticeship growth where returns are greatest. They also manage WorldSkills UK; a portfolio of skills competitions and activities run in partnership with organisations from industry and education.

Jon is Head of Business Development in London and South East for the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) and is responsible for

- stimulating demand for Apprenticeships across the division from young people and adults;
- nurturing demand for Apprenticeships from employers through the development and delivery of specific initiatives, such as Higher Apprenticeships and
- delivering an overall improvement in the quality of the programme.

Jon has been part of the National Apprenticeship Service from its inception in April 2009. Prior to this he has held a number of roles within the Learning & Skills Council, working with both Apprenticeships and Train to Gain as well as developing the Mayor's Skills and Employment strategy. Prior to joining the LSC Jon started his career at South London Training and Enterprise Council where he was responsible for the quality improvement of work based learning programmes.

This page is intentionally left blank

APPRENTICESHIPS SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 1

Thursday 10 January 2013

Witness Guide for Members

Below are suggested themes and questions. They have been provided in advance to the witnesses to allow them to prepare for the types of issues that Members may be interested to explore. All Members are welcome to ask these questions or pose additional ones to the witnesses via the Committee Chairman.

Themes and Questions

Jon Thorn, Head of Business Development for London and the South East, National Apprenticeship Service

- Please introduce yourself and outline the roles and responsibilities that your post involves.
- Please provide an overview of the services supplied by the National Apprenticeship Service.
- Please provide data with regards to apprenticeships in Kent.
- What are the benefits of apprenticeships for businesses and young people?
- What are the issues, specifically surrounding Kent and the South East, with regards to apprenticeships?
- To what extent, in your view, do apprenticeships meet local labour market needs and the expectations of growth industries in Kent? Are local partnerships with regards to apprenticeships working effectively in Kent? To what extent are employers engaged in these processes?
- What initiatives, if any, could contribute to raising the demand for apprenticeships from both employers and young people in Kent? How can the number of apprenticeships among new employers specifically be improved?
- How can access to apprenticeship programmes in Kent be broadened?

- Please discuss what could be done to increase the numbers of advanced and higher level apprenticeships in Kent.
- To what extent does the quality of apprenticeships across Kent vary? If there is variation what, in your view, are the causes? How could the quality of apprenticeships be improved?
- In what ways – if any – can Kent County Council improve the quality and provision of apprenticeships in Kent? What can KCC do to increase the number of employers offering apprenticeships in Kent?
- Please discuss the impact and implications of RPA (raising the participation age in compulsory education) on the growth of apprenticeships for 16-18 year olds.
- What are your views on the recommendations put forwards in the Richard Review of apprenticeships? Please inform the Select Committee of any policy changes at national level with relevance to this review.
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?

Kent County Council

Apprenticeships Select Committee

Hearing 1

Thursday 10th January 2013

Biography

Peter Hobbs, Chief Executive, Kent Channel Chamber of Commerce

Currently the Kent Channel Chamber of Commerce represents business in all sectors across Shepway, Dover and Thanet. Funded by its members, it is a fully independent business support organisation. Kent Channel Chamber is fully accredited to the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) network - a powerful and influential network of 52 Chambers which represent more than 100,000 businesses across the UK.

This page is intentionally left blank

APPRENTICESHIPS SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 1

Thursday 10 January 2013

Witness Guide for Members

Below are suggested themes and questions. They have been provided in advance to the witnesses to allow them to prepare for the types of issues that Members may be interested to explore. All Members are welcome to ask these questions or pose additional ones to the witnesses via the Committee Chairman.

Themes and Questions

Peter Hobbs, Chief Executive, Kent Channel Chamber of Commerce

- Please introduce yourself and outline the roles and responsibilities that your post involves.
- What are the benefits of apprenticeships for businesses and young people?
- To what extent, in your view, do apprenticeships meet local labour market needs and the expectations of growth industries in Kent?
- In what ways, if any, can collaboration between employers, schools and learning providers be promoted in order to improve the quality and quantity of apprenticeships? To what extent are employers currently engaged in these processes?
- In what ways, if any, can local employers (with particular regards to small businesses) be supported so that it is easier for them to offer apprenticeships to young people?
- Please discuss employer-led models with regards to apprenticeships? What is the role of national management with regards to apprenticeships?
- Please discuss the issue of qualifications without skills in relation to apprenticeships.
- How best can apprenticeships be marketed to young people and businesses in Kent?

- Please discuss the role and impact that local career education and information, advice and guidance have in enabling young people in Kent to make informed choices about their future education and employment.
- In what ways – if any – can Kent County Council improve the quality and provision of apprenticeships in Kent? What can KCC do to increase the number of employers offering apprenticeships in Kent?
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?

Kent County Council

Apprenticeships Select Committee

Hearing 1

Thursday 10th January 2013

Biography

Lindsay Jardine, Director of Operations, Kent Association of Training Organisations (KATO)

KATO is a network of training providers and FE Colleges with 58 member organisations who deliver work based learning, apprenticeships and other provision, including skills for the unemployed across Kent and Medway. KATO works closely with the National Apprenticeship Service, Skills Funding Agency, Education Funding Agency and other key stakeholders to support and ensure high quality provision and share best practice across the county.

As Director of Operations for KATO, Lindsay represents training providers at key meetings including the Joint Partnership Board, Kent Strategic Forum and the Kent Apprenticeship Partnership Group. This enables providers' voices to be heard and key relevant information to be shared directly with the delivery providers.

This page is intentionally left blank

APPRENTICESHIPS SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 1

Thursday 10 January 2013

Witness Guide for Members

Below are suggested themes and questions. They have been provided in advance to the witnesses to allow them to prepare for the types of issues that Members may be interested to explore. All Members are welcome to ask these questions or pose additional ones to the witnesses via the Committee Chairman.

Themes and Questions

Lindsay Jardine, Director of Operations, Kent Association of Training Organisations (KATO)

- Please introduce yourself and outline the roles and responsibilities that your post involves.
- Please provide an overview of the services supplied by the Kent Association of Training Organisations (KATO). In what ways does KATO support both training providers and employers?
- What are the benefits of apprenticeships for businesses and young people?
- To what extent, in your view, do apprenticeships meet local labour market needs and the expectations of growth industries in Kent? Are local partnerships with regards to apprenticeships working effectively in Kent? To what extent are employers engaged in these processes?
- To what extent are current employer grants having an impact on reducing unemployment and growing apprenticeships in Kent? What initiatives, if any, could contribute to raising the demand for apprenticeships from both employers and young people in Kent?
- Please discuss the impact and implications of RPA (raising the participation age in compulsory education) on the growth of apprenticeships for 16-18 year olds.
- In what ways – if any – can Kent County Council improve the quality and provision of apprenticeships in Kent? What can KCC do to increase the number of employers offering apprenticeships in Kent?

- Please discuss the role and impact that local career education and information, advice and guidance have in enabling young people in Kent to make informed choices about their future education and employment.
- Please inform the Select Committee of any policy changes at national level with relevance to this review.
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?