

THE STUDENT JOURNEY SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 6

Wednesday 6th July 2011

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

David Wales, Director (Kent), 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.
- What are the benefits of apprenticeships for businesses and young people?
- To what extent, in your view, do learning and skills providers in Kent prepare young people for work?
- To what extent, in your view, do vocational training, apprenticeships and work experience schemes meet local labour market needs and the expectations of growth industries in Kent?
- In what ways – if any – can Kent County Council improve the quality and provision of apprenticeships in Kent?
- Please discuss policy changes within the skills system that have changed the operating environment for the delivery of apprenticeships (for example, the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act, and the Specification for Apprenticeship Standards in England).
- Please discuss the reasons for developing the Diversity Pilots, and their objectives.

- In your view, how effective are current partnerships between local employers, educators and other skills providers in preparing young people for the world of work?
- 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 that have relevance in this review, and that can impact on the educational and employment opportunities and choices of young people in Kent.
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?