

# **THE STUDENT JOURNEY SELECT COMMITTEE**

## **Hearing 6**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 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**

#### **Sean Kearns, Chief Executive, Connexions Kent and Medway**

- Please introduce yourself and describe the roles and responsibilities that your post involves.
- Please provide an overview of the services supplied by Connexions.
- Please discuss the recent proposed changes affecting the all-age National Careers Service. What impact will these developments have on the provision of career information, advice and guidance (IAG) to young people in Kent?
- To what extent, in your view, do learning and skills providers in Kent prepare young people for work?
- How far do vocational training, apprenticeships and work experience schemes meet local labour market needs and the expectations of growth industries in Kent?
- Please discuss the effectiveness of current partnerships between local employers, educators and other skills providers in preparing young people for the world of work.
- In your view, how homogeneous is the provision of IAG across schools in Kent? In what ways- if any – can this provision be made more uniform?
- How many young people are not in education, employment and training (NEET) in Kent? What are the most common reasons for young people not being in education, employment and training?

- What initiatives are currently being implemented to deal with the issue of NEETs in Kent? What other initiatives – if any - can Kent County Council implement to deal with this issue?
- What initiative and strategies – if any – should Kent County Council adopt to enhance the employability of *all* young people in Kent?
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?