

THE STUDENT JOURNEY SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 7

Friday 22 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

Becci Newton, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Employment Studies

- Please provide an overview of the Institute of Employment Studies, and please outline the roles and responsibilities that your post involves.
- Please discuss the benefits and disadvantages of recent national policies in relation to youth unemployment (for example, the expansion of apprenticeships, and the removal of financial support to continue in full-time tertiary education).
- What is the Work Programme? To what extent, in your view, is the Work Programme effective in dealing with youth unemployment?
- What are your views on the Wolf Report and its recommendations?
- To what extent, in your view, do vocational training, apprenticeships and work experience schemes meet local labour market needs and the expectations of businesses?
- What do employers look for when recruiting young people? What skills and attributes do both lower-skilled young people and graduates need to demonstrate to secure employment?
- What are the conclusions of the evaluations of the Activity Agreement Pilots, which aimed to re-engage and support young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)?
- Please discuss the effectiveness of current partnerships between employers, educators and other skills providers in preparing young people for the world of work.

- In your opinion, should career education and information, advice and guidance be built into schools' curricula? If so, why?
- In your view, what policies, initiatives and strategies should Kent County Council implement in order to enhance the employability of young people in Kent?
- Are you aware of good practice policies and strategies to deal with youth unemployment from other European countries?
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?