

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?