

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.