

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

Jon Thorn, Head of Business Development for London and the South East, 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.
- Please provide data with regards to apprenticeships in Kent.
- What are the benefits of apprenticeships for businesses and young people?
- What are the issues, specifically surrounding Kent and the South East, with regards to apprenticeships?
- 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?
- What initiatives, if any, could contribute to raising the demand for apprenticeships from both employers and young people in Kent? How can the number of apprenticeships among new employers specifically be improved?
- How can access to apprenticeship programmes in Kent be broadened?

- Please discuss what could be done to increase the numbers of advanced and higher level apprenticeships in Kent.
- To what extent does the quality of apprenticeships across Kent vary? If there is variation what, in your view, are the causes? How could the quality of apprenticeships be improved?
- In what ways – if any – can Kent County Council improve the quality and provision of apprenticeships in Kent? What can KCC do to increase the number of employers offering apprenticeships 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.
- What are your views on the recommendations put forwards in the Richard Review of apprenticeships? Please inform the Select Committee of any policy changes at national 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?