

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

Lindsay Jardine, Director of Operations, Kent Association of Training Organisations (KATO)

- Please introduce yourself and outline the roles and responsibilities that your post involves.
- Please provide an overview of the services supplied by the Kent Association of Training Organisations (KATO). In what ways does KATO support both training providers and employers?
- What are the benefits of apprenticeships for businesses and young people?
- 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 are current employer grants having an impact on reducing unemployment and growing apprenticeships in Kent? What initiatives, if any, could contribute to raising the 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.
- 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 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 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?