

APPRENTICESHIPS SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 4

Wednesday 23 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

Danielle Sparks, Senior Technical Clerk, Building Control, Dover District Council, and Mary Leadsham, Apprentice Technical Clerk, Building Control, Dover District Council.

- Question for both - Please introduce yourselves.
- Question for Mary - Why did you decide to do an apprenticeship?
- For Mary - How did you find out about the apprenticeship scheme you are on?
- For Danielle – How does Dover District Council recruit apprentices?
- For Mary - Have you done any work experience prior to this apprenticeship?
- For Mary - Did you receive careers guidance by a personal adviser at school? If so, what did you learn?
- For both – In your view, what are the benefits of apprenticeship schemes both for the apprentice and the employer?
- For both - Is there anything you would change about apprenticeships?
- For Danielle – What can be done to lower the risks and costs for employers when recruiting and training apprentices?
- For both - What skills do you think employers look for from the young people they want to recruit?

- For both - How well does the process of gaining apprenticeships qualifications balance with the demands of the working environment?
- For Mary - Do you see any barriers to your employability?
- For Mary - How confident are you that you will find a permanent job after the apprenticeship?
- For both - How can more young people be persuaded to begin apprenticeships?
- For both - What do you think should be done to improve the quality and delivery of apprenticeships in Kent?
- 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?
- In what ways, if any, can collaboration between employers, schools and learning providers be promoted in order to improve the quality and quantity of apprenticeships? To what extent are employers currently engaged in these processes?
- In what ways, if any, can local employers (with particular regards to small businesses) be supported so that it is easier for them to offer apprenticeships to young people?
- Please discuss employer-led models with regards to apprenticeships? What is the role of national management with regards to apprenticeships?
- Please discuss the issue of qualifications without skills in relation to apprenticeships.
- How best can apprenticeships be marketed to young people and businesses 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.
- 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?
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?