

**WILTSHIRE COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**15 MAY 2012**

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**QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

**FROM CLLR CHRIS CASWILL, CHIPPENHAM MONKTON DIVISION**

**TO CLLR LIONEL GRUNDY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**Question 1**

- a) What services are now provided by Connexions in Wiltshire?
- b) How are those services being advertised?
- c) How are the services which are no longer being provided by Connexions being made available to the young people who need them?
- d) What steps are being taken to monitor the provision of these kinds of support services in Wiltshire secondary schools?

**Response**

- a) The Connexions brand no longer exists. Remaining Connexions staff are now part of the Integrated Youth Service (IYS). Their primary role is to provide support for young people who are not in education, employment and training (NEET) or at significant risk of this.

All Integrated Youth Service staff (Youth Offending, former Connexions staff, Youth Development staff and others) have a youth engagement role to work with young people who are identified as being vulnerable e.g. NEET or risk of NEET, Special Educational Needs, Disability, Child in Care, Young Offender, Teenage Parent, Substance Misuse etc. As such, the IYS provides 'targeted' support to those young people who need it most.

However, a universal 'open access' youth work offer remains in each community area delivered by local Youth Workers. Changes to Connexions have been made in light of statutory government guidance stating that responsibility for careers guidance (formerly 'Information, Advice and Guidance') moves to schools (including academies) and colleges from 1st September 2012 – supported by the new 'National Careers Service'.

- b) Integrated Youth Services are advertised in several ways:-

- Through commissioning consultations directly with young people.
- Regular communications with schools and academies.
- Communication to partners of Children and Young Peoples Trust.
- On 'Sparksite' (youth website) and as communicated by IYS Delivery Teams.
- Within Job Centres where Integrated Youth staff are still present at set times.

We are currently undertaking work to continue to clarify our overall youth offer and to explore the best way of promoting this to local young people. Young people will be involved in this.

- c) Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (which the Council no longer delivers from 1st September) will be provided by schools including academies. As such, there should be no reduction in the overall offer, although it is now split between the Local Authority (focus on vulnerable young people) and schools/colleges (universal offer of careers guidance to all young people). Between May and September, an interim offer of service is in place and has been accepted by schools and colleges.
- d) There is currently no requirement for the Local Authority to monitor the provision of Careers Guidance in schools. However, our Schools and Learning Team are working with schools and colleges to support the provision of careers guidance in schools through our local Raising Participation Age Strategy and Plan, of which schools are a key partner. In addition the Schools and Learning 13-19 Team are working with and encouraging schools to obtain the careers 'Quality Mark' status. Overall the Department for Education will have a lead role in ensuring that effective quality careers advice is delivered by schools and colleges.