

Information Xpress

Bringing you up-to-date with resources, information and events to help you provide personal development, information, advice, guidance and support for 11-19 year olds in Northamptonshire.

Summer 2011

Connexions continues in Northamptonshire

Despite a couple of rumours we have heard in the last week we would like to emphasise that Connexions is not closing down. As the saying goes 'bad news travels faster', so we'd like to dispel these rumours with some fantastic statistics for May! Plus this issue of Information Xpress features all the latest news and events, publications and resources, an update from Northamptonshire Education and Work Service, and case studies from two Connexions Choices Advisers.

Some statistics for May which highlight some aspects of our work.

- From 01-31st May 2011 www.4you2.org.uk had 3,030 visits and 2,401 absolute unique visitors.
- Our jobs website www.jobs4you2.org.uk had over 2,000 hits per month.
- In May 2011 the Vacancy and Recruitment Team handled 608 enquiries by phone and over 200 enquiries about vacancies via the website.
- Vacancy and Recruitment have seen an increase of 18% in the number of notified vacancies in 2010/11 compared to last year 2009/10 and 37% increase on 2008/9.
- In May 2011 the NEET figure was 5.3% compared to 6.5% in May 2010 and the current Not Known is 3.7%.
- In May 2011 there were 2,166 interventions with young people.



Information Xpress is designed and produced by the Quality and Performance Team of Connexions Northamptonshire.
Tel: 01604 614927 Fax: 01604 633310

Future IAG Arrangements

Since the announcement of an "All Age Careers Service" last November further details have emerged setting out some of the Government plans for IAG arrangements in the future.

From September 2012 schools will have a duty "to secure access to impartial and independent careers guidance for every pupil in Years 9 to 11". There are plans to consult at the beginning of the next academic year on whether this duty should be extended to Year 8 and up to Year 13.

Some current statutory requirements are being repealed and schools will no longer be required to deliver careers education or provide data about young people to those providing careers guidance. The guidance states however, "The removal of this provision is permissive; it does not imply that these activities are unimportant, but that the Government considers that it is not necessary to legislate for them."

The guidance also sets out that provision for careers

guidance will be made from within the Dedicated Schools Grant. The DfE guidance highlights that: "The budget is unringfenced so that schools can identify their own priorities."

The new duty on schools is matched by guidance to Local Authorities on their responsibilities. This maintains their statutory duty to "encourage, enable or assist young people's participation in education or training" (to age 20 or 25 with LDD). Local Authorities will be responsible for ensuring vulnerable young people receive the help they need to engage in education or training and prevent them from dropping out. There is no further detail of what needs may be considered as vulnerable – this will be for each area to decide.

Local Authorities will also be responsible for:

- tracking the activity of young people so that they know the proportion of young people who are NEET and Not Known;
- recording offers of learning for 16 and 17

Continued on page 2...

Continued from front page...

year olds i.e. "September Guarantee"; and

- working with Jobcentre Plus to fulfil legislative requirements of benefit conditions for under 18 claimants (i.e. young people have to register with Connexions to claim benefits and provide evidence of actively seeking employment and training).

In addition BIS have confirmed that a new National Careers Service will commence in September and be fully operational by April 2012.

Initially the focus will be online and helpline services for adults which will link to similar services for young people, creating a single point of access for all users. This service will provide free face to face careers guidance for priority groups and provide a charged service to others.

Local Service development

The Local Authority is seeking to set up a new Community Interest Company that will deliver the current Connexions

functions until the transfer of duties to schools next year. The organisation will then deliver the service for vulnerable young people to meet the Local Authority's obligations as highlighted above.

Almost 30 secondary schools from across the county have taken up the opportunity to contribute to "market testing" discussions to help identify the range of support services that young people may require. This feedback will be used to inform the development of the new company and early analysis of the feedback has highlighted:

- the importance schools place on raising the aspirations of their pupils;
- the benefit of working in partnership with external agencies and the wider perspective they bring to delivery in school;
- the value schools place on impartial Information, Advice and Guidance for their pupils and access to Work Related Learning; and
- the financial challenges facing schools.

Thank you to all the school staff who gave up their time to contribute to these discussions, this will help to shape future services in Northamptonshire. More details will be available next academic year about the shape of the new Community Interest Company. This will be complemented by details in November of the services available for purchase from September 2012, when the duty to secure IAG services transfers to schools.



Helen Aird
Acting Head of Service



Paula Bright
Acting Senior Lead (IAGS Lead - Performance & Development)

Project Trust: long-term overseas volunteering opportunities for school leavers

Project Trust is an educational charity specialising in 8 or 12 month structured volunteering placements for 17-19 year olds in 24 countries in Africa, Asia and the Americas. They have been sending volunteers overseas for over 40 years and are the longest running gap year organisation in the UK. Project Trust's dedicated Recruitment team, and extensive network of Returned Volunteers, work with schools and youth development agencies across Northamptonshire to deliver school talks and attend careers and information events. They are keen to increase their representation of volunteers from Northampton and surrounding areas.

For more information, or to book a Project Trust representative to talk to students, please contact Jen Byram, Head of Volunteer Recruitment, on 01879 230 110 or at jen.byram@projecttrust.org.uk

New £180 million Bursary Fund announced

The Government has announced a new £180 million bursary scheme to help the most vulnerable 16-19 year-olds continue in full-time education. The scheme will start in September 2011 and the money will be distributed by colleges.

The scheme is made up of two parts: the most vulnerable 16-19 year-olds will be given guaranteed bursaries of £1,200 a year and schools and colleges will also have the discretion to award bursaries to support any student who faces genuine financial barriers to participation such as costs of transport, food or equipment. Transitional arrangements will help those who are part-way through their studies and are currently receiving the EMA.

The full announcement is available on the latest page of the YPLA website: www.ypla.gov.uk/news/latest/bursary-announcement.htm ...or the DfE website: www.education.gov.uk/16to19/studentsupport/a0077824/the-16-19-bursary-scheme

CEIAG in schools in England

A briefing paper which covers the current and future position of CEIAG in schools in England has been written by the Association for Careers Education and Guidance (ACEG) and the Institute of Careers Guidance (ICG), in collaboration with Careers England and the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL).

To view the PDF visit [http://ascl.org.uk/home/Current Issues - CEIAG in schools in England](http://ascl.org.uk/home/Current%20Issues%20-%20CEIAG%20in%20schools%20in%20England)

Career Mark 5 Update

The summer term has seen a flurry of activity in schools and colleges to complete their Career Mark portfolios and submit them for internal Health Check assessment. This is the first phase of assessment in the Career Mark process and institutions are unable to go for on-site assessment until they have passed this stage. The on-site assessment is when an external assessor comes into the institution and spends the day with a sample of students from all year groups, doing group activities, quizzes and asking questions to see if they have met the 'Outcomes' standard criteria and can understand and apply the knowledge and skills they have gained through the careers education and work-related learning programmes.

Planning the on-site assessment day in the summer term can be difficult with the exams and study leave but we are pleased to congratulate **Caroline Chisholm School** who successfully passed their assessment in May – well done to Jenny Blaize, Phil Ashton and all the staff at the school. The Assessor not only praised them and their hard work but also commented that the students valued the 1:1 support provided by their Connexions Choices Advisers.

Congratulations to **Northgate School Arts College** (who already hold Career Mark and are going for their 3-year revalidation assessment) and **Billing Brook School** who both passed their on-site assessments in June and certificates and plaques will be issued in the summer.

Cathy McGauran, one of the Training Officers in Connexions has recently qualified as a Career Mark Assessor doing her first assessment in a school in Chesterfield and

the other Learning Provider Advisers, Gemma, Stuart and Sue have been doing assessments in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire.

Linda Bristow, the Quality and Performance Manager and also the regional Career Mark Development Manager, is working with the national task force group who are developing the National Kite Mark for these type of quality awards. The recent meeting in June has produced a final draft for ministers and we are confident that Career Mark will meet all the criteria and be recognised as not only a local and regional quality award but meeting a national standard.

If you would like further information on Career Mark there is a dedicated website www.careermark.co.uk or contact the LPA for your area.

- **Sue Curtis**
scurtis@connexions-northamptonshire.org.uk
Northampton, Daventry and South Northants
- **Stuart Carr**
scarr@connexions-northamptonshire.org.uk
Kettering and Corby
- **Gemma Johnston-Smith**
gjohnston-smith@connexions-northamptonshire.org.uk
Wellingborough and East Northants



www.careermark.co.uk

Accredited training for Careers Leaders

Information is now available on the new accredited courses for staff in schools and colleges responsible for managing, planning and delivering their Careers Education and IAG programmes. Many staff in schools and colleges have already undertaken one of these accredited courses and found them invaluable in their role.

The courses are aimed at both teachers and non-teachers in this role and some provide credits towards a Postgraduate Diploma and Masters degree. Connexions Northamptonshire have successfully supported staff undertaking courses at or delivered by Cambridge University, Nottingham Trent University, Leicester

University and Derby University in the past. For further information go to the links below or speak to your LPA. All accredited courses can be viewed in the document Directory of Professional Qualifications for Careers Education and Guidance on www.aceg.org.uk

The two courses we recommend are:

- **Cambridge University, Faculty of Education** – Postgraduate Certificate of Professional Study - Qualification in Careers Leadership (QCL) Level 7 <http://www.educ.cam.ac.uk/ppd>
Cost: £975

- **Derby University, International Centre for Guidance Studies** - The Certificate in Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance and the Advanced Diploma in Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) www.derby.ac.uk/icegs Cost: Dependent on delivery style and numbers.

If you would like to organise bespoke training in school then contact your LPA or the Quality and Performance Team. We will also be offering a range of courses in the new academic year and a full INSET guide will be available on the website and in the next addition of Information Xpress.

Life Choices for young people with learning difficulties or disabilities

Connexions and Northamptonshire County Council hosted Northamptonshire's first ever information event for young people with learning difficulties or disabilities.

The event took place at Northampton Town Football Club, Sixfields Stadium in Northampton on Wednesday 15 June from 10am til 3pm and from 5.30pm til 8pm.

Over 46 exhibition stands provided information on things like housing, money,

leisure, education, training and work, keeping safe, relationships and getting advice and support. Workshops for young people and their parents included managing money, finding somewhere to live, health and relationships, work and learning etc. Young people also took part in sport activities like football and cricket. Around 30 volunteers supported the event, drawn from schools, the County Council, Connexions and other agencies across the county.

Maria Faller, Transitions Coordinator at Northamptonshire County Council, said, "In the area of transitions, early, informed planning with all agencies coordinating and working together with young people and their families is the key to a more positive experience of transitions for everyone. The transitions event was the first countywide event to take place in Northamptonshire and was an attempt to respond in

another way for the need for information for young people (14-25) with a learning difficulty or disability and their families and to bring people together...families, professionals, mainstream students in schools and colleges, friends and senior managers. We are to produce an evaluation report including extensive feedback from attendees, stallholders, workshop facilitators and organisers to identify whether this could be an annual event. So far, 100% yes!"

What did you like best about the event?

Comments from young people/ parents and carers

- "Everything"
- "People there you could talk to"
- "Valuable information"
- "Variety of events and sport"
- "Info on housing and employment"
- "Valuable information in 1 place"
- "Informative and fun sessions/ networking"
- "Colleges being there"

Should we hold this event next year?

100% of the young people and /or parents or carers that completed the questionnaire said they wanted the event next year.



Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme

Northamptonshire Police have launched a new scheme in partnership with Northampton College, aimed at young people aged 16 and 17.

The Police Cadets is a voluntary scheme encouraging young people to get involved in their local community and help make a difference.

Northamptonshire Police will be working in collaboration with Northampton College to improve and develop each Police Cadet's skills and experiences, and help them undertake a Certificate in Public Services. This will be followed by an extended certificate after one years service, and a Diploma in Public Services after two years service.

Applicants will need to be aged 16 before 30 June 2011 and no older than 17 to be eligible to join the Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme. For more information, email:

lizzi.betts@northants.police.uk
<http://www.northants.police.uk/neenor/>

Year 12 students attend Higher Education Conference

This year's annual UCAS sponsored Higher Education Conference was held at the University of Northampton on 27th and 28th April.

It was organised by Connexions Northamptonshire and was attended by almost 5,000 Year 12 students from Northamptonshire, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire and other neighbouring counties. They had the opportunity to visit stands from over 100 different universities and other institutions, discuss their higher education options with representatives as well as attend a range of talks. The talks covered specific study areas and more general topics such as the UCAS application process, student life and student finance.

Connexions Choices Advisers were also on hand to answer any questions students had about higher education, student finance and their careers plans.

Student comments included:

- "It's really good, you get to see what universities there are and talk to representatives face to face."
- "Really useful and interesting".
- "It helped me to have a look into what universities have to offer."
- "It's useful to talk to people from different universities."

Comments from University representatives included:

- "This event was very well organised. The staff and student ambassadors worked hard to make it a successful event."
- "Good event. As organised as ever. Well done again."

Students who completed feedback forms went into a prize draw, and winner Gemma Tout from Malcolm Arnold Academy said:

"Getting information about the different universities was really useful and broadened my ideas about where and what to study. And I was very surprised and pleased to have won these vouchers as I had totally forgotten that I had even given some feedback. Thank you."

Jane Shearer, event organiser from Connexions Northamptonshire, said:

"Once again this proved to be a very successful event to help Year 12 students move forward in making their plans for the future".

Provisional dates for next year's Conference are 18th and 19th April 2012 TBC.



Publications and Resources

Which way now? & It's your choice 2011-12

These booklets, to support young people in their choice of options at key stage 4 and post-16 respectively, are now available to order for delivery from 1st September.

The booklets provide:

- Up-to-date and impartial information about the range of education and training options for 14-19 year olds.
- Case studies from others who have experienced this process.
- Action points to take students through the steps they need to follow.
- Tips and signposts for where to find out more.

The booklets are £1.50 per copy, but discounts are available for bulk orders. To place an order or enquire about discounts contact Babcock Lifeskills on 01329 229138 or email: sales@babcock-lifeskills.co.uk

Facebook We'd love you to like us!

Connexions Northamptonshire currently has 151 fans, which has been growing steadily over the past six months.

In a recent consultation with young people, 642 out of 761 young people said they wanted us to use Facebook so we are posting news items daily including a weekly Top Job, a weekly list of new job vacancies, events, plus competitions and much more. We are keen to encourage more young people to like our page so they can be kept up-to-date with the latest news,

events, jobs etc. Next term we will be holding a competition to engage young people and we will be looking to hold some focus groups with young people to find out how we can improve our page.

Anyone can see our page here www.facebook.com/connexionsnorthamptonshire, but to interact with it and receive updates they need to click 'like us' and have a Facebook account.

The Changing Job Market for Teenagers Resources to support teachers using this publication

1. Lesson Plans – A set of lesson plans for KS3, KS4 and KS5.
2. Complimentary Resources – A set of detailed local labour market information for each of the 10 employment sectors within Northamptonshire. This includes information about:
 - Who does what? a breakdown of the different jobs within each of the 10 employment sectors.
 - The major employers in Northamptonshire for each of the 10 employment sectors.

This detailed publication can be used with learners (and their parents) from years 7 to 13. It can be used to support learning within subjects such as economics, geography, business studies, PSHE and work-related learning, and at parent events and staff training.

Is Your Teenager Employable?

This leaflet has been updated to include information about the labour market and why it is important for young people to be aware of labour market information when thinking of their future careers. This is for parents and carers and can be handed out at parent and carer events.



Publications and Resources

Facts, Figures and Trends – Destinations of Year 11s in 2010

Every year Connexions Northamptonshire collects data about the destinations of all year 11s. This is called the activity survey.

We have collated this information in easy to read charts and tables for each area of the county. There is also extra information about the local, national and global labour market. This resource can be used with young people from years 7 to 11.

There is also a quiz to support use of the publication. The quiz could be given to the students first before looking through the Facts, Figures and Trends publication. This publication can also be used with parents and carers at parent events.

Copies of the publication can be downloaded from the Northamptonshire Works section of the website in the resources and publications section:

www.4you2.org.uk/northamptonshireworks

Labour Market News – Summer 2011 and Quiz

Keep up to date with the latest labour market news. The summer 2011 edition and a quiz to support staff in using the labour market information is now available to download from the Northamptonshire Works section of the website: www.4you2.org.uk/northamptonshireworks/latestnews

This edition has information about:

- work in the local economy;
- best paid jobs and lowest full time salaries;
- what's happening in different occupational sectors;
- jobs for the future;
- apprenticeships and training; and
- regular jobs round-up for the county.

This is a very informative resource to use, especially with students in Year 11 and 13 and can be used cross-curricular to support lessons in economics, business and geography.



A power point presentation on the Northamptonshire Labour Market 2011

The power point includes information about:

- employers in Northamptonshire – including the top 12;
- a pie-chart to show numbers of people employed in the different occupational sectors in Northamptonshire;
- what employers are looking for in young people – including quotes from employers;
- future trends and opportunities; and summary of key messages.

Some of the information is in a question format to give students the opportunity to discuss the labour market within Northamptonshire. The power point has comprehensive notes for staff use.

All of these resources and publications are available online at www.4you2.org.uk/northamptonshireworks under resources and publications.

For further information, please contact:

Liz Cundy

14-19 Development Adviser lcundy@connexions-northamptonshire.org.uk
01604 614927



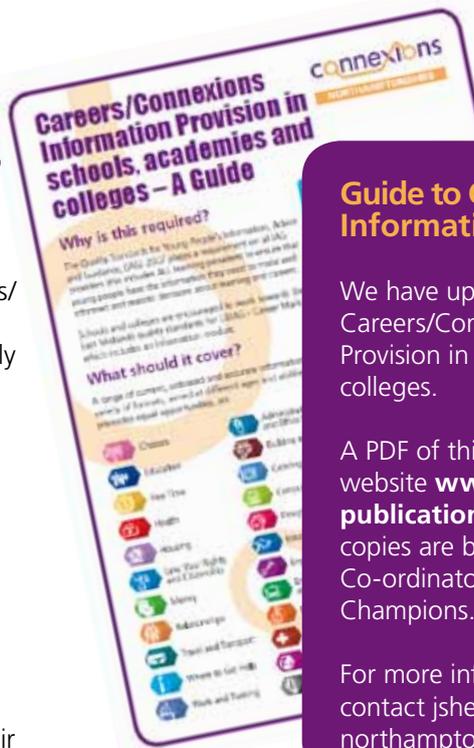
Publications

Your Careers/Connexions Information Provision

This is a good time of year to carry out an audit of your Careers/Connexions information provision of both paper and IT/web-based resources. Some paper items will need replacing annually and all links to websites should also be checked for accuracy.

If you are going for Career Mark then you should be including this audit as part of that process – it is a good way to check that you are meeting the standards before completing your storyboard. For all institutions, the standards to aim for will be the same. If you need help with this process please speak to your choices adviser or contact Jane Shearer on 01604 614927 or email: jshearer@connexions-northamptonshire.org.uk

All institutions should have received a copy of the latest catalogue from Prospects; resources can also be viewed on their website: www.prospectseducationresources.co.uk



Guide to Careers/Connexions Information Provision

We have updated our Guide to Careers/Connexions Information Provision in schools, academies and colleges.

A PDF of this can be found on our website www.4you2.org.uk/publications/schools and paper copies are being posted to Careers Co-ordinators, Librarians and IAGS Champions.

For more information please contact jshearer@connexions-northamptonshire.org.uk

Fact Files-10th Edition

This year's Fact Files have all been given out and we've been collating replies back from young people. In total we received 137 reply cards from Year 11s and 92 from Year 9s.

All reply cards received were entered into a prize draw and the winners and runners-up were selected at random.

The Year 9 winner was Jacqui Wong from Sir Christopher Hatton, she won a £50 voucher. The runners-up Siobhan Dunn - Daventry William Parker; Natasha

Birch - Moulton School and Clara Rodrigues - Lodge Park Technology College all received a Max USB stick.

The Year 11 Winner was Amy Louise from Abbeyfield School. She was presented with her £50 voucher by Connexions Choices Adviser Jayne Walker. The runners-up Leigh-Ann Keddie – Manor School; Gregory Douglas McKenna - Weston Favell School and Kyle Mcphie - Springboard Corby all received a Max USB stick.

We have started working on the **10th edition** of our Fact Files ready for the students in Years 9 and 11. We hope these will continue to be supported by advertising to help fund some of the cost. More details on delivery dates will be emailed or posted to schools in September.



Questions	Year 9	Year 11
This Fact File is really useful.	90% agree or strongly agree the fact file is useful.	94% agree or strongly agree the fact file is useful.
This Fact File has helped me with my decisions	82% agree or strongly agree the fact file has helped with their decisions.	73% agree or strongly agree the fact file has helped with their decisions.
The design of this Fact File appeals to me	84% agree or strongly agree that they like the design.	79% agree or strongly agree that they like the design.
What section did you find most useful?	70% think the careers section is most useful, with 20% preferring the lifestyle section.	78% think the careers section is most useful, with 22% preferring the lifestyle section.

Employers support developments to work experience

Local employers have voiced their support for the changes and developments that have started to be put in place by the NEWS Team.

Following on from the Wolf report many employers are looking forward to supporting schools re-motivate the most vulnerable and disengaged students and help improve the aspirations and progression routes of students. Many more welcome post-16 students with particular interests in their industry and recognise that they have a part to play in ensuring students leave the education system with the skills needed for success in their working lives.

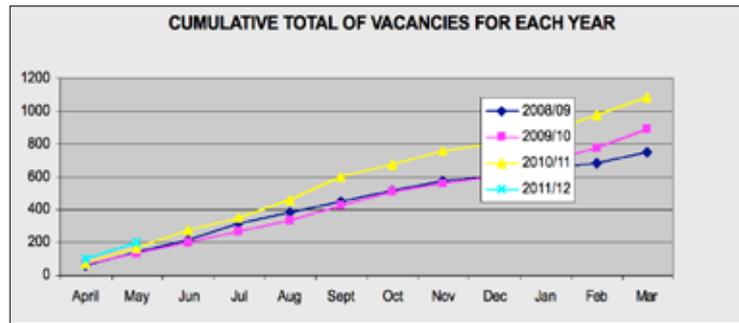
'Young people should be able to undertake courses which provide them with the skills they need to progress into employment. Involvement from local employers is vital to ensure qualifications are relevant. We need to ensure that all young people are able to gain real experience and knowledge of the workplace. Genuine work experience is an important part of a student's programme of study while remaining in education, and we are committed to supporting schools and colleges achieving this aim. Local Authorities are already under a duty to

encourage work experience for students 16 – 19 and we have begun working with partners to promote this.' Wolf, Government Response.

Ensuring young people have the skills to compete in a global economy is high on the Coalition Government's agenda and mirrored in the recent CBI education and skills survey. A lack of employability skills often ranks high on employers' lists of concerns, as does improving core skills of literacy and numeracy. The CBI survey showed that although employers do not expect young people to be job ready, they do expect school leavers to draw on a range of employability skills, enabling them to become rapidly effective in employment. 55% of employers were not satisfied with young people's self-management skills and 69% were not satisfied with levels of business and customer awareness such as the need to provide customer satisfaction.

Northamptonshire has a history of strong support from employers and since the establishment of NEWS (Northamptonshire Education and Work Service) we are seeing an increasing appetite from employers for greater engagement with schools and an acceptance that business involvement goes beyond simply providing work experience for students. This comes at a time when we are persuading more and more employers to consider offering employment and apprenticeships to young people.

Last year 2010/11 saw an increase of 18% in new vacancies notified to Connexions compared to 09/10 and an increase of 37% on the year before 08/09! This year the trend is continuing with many employers keen to offer alternatives to university for our school leavers.



Kerry Senatore
NEWS Team Manager



County Challenge Taking Shape

Teachers of PSHE? Citizenship? Geography? Art and Design? Creative and Media? Design and Technology? Drama? Literacy? Law?

Joining up the police, the community and the arts may not be a natural choice but that's what will be happening across the county next year. Watch out for more details of the County Challenge before the end of term.

Looking at issues of violence and anti-social behaviour in our county we will be asking your students across all abilities and year groups to look at producing a creative piece of work to be part of an exhibition and message to the public, travelling across all parts of the county. A great opportunity for our students to make a difference and highlight the issues, as well as show off their talent and learn new business skills with support from local employers such as budgeting, marketing, increased communication and confidence skills and working as a team.



NEWS TEAM UPDATE

Speed-matching

During the early part of May 2011 Aimhigher, Connexions and the National Apprenticeship Service worked in partnership to deliver 4 events across the county. These were sponsored by Northampton, Kettering and Corby Borough Councils and were held at The Guildhall Northampton, Tithe Barn Wellingborough, Haymarket Kettering and The Cube in Corby.

The aim of the events was to match young people to job or Apprenticeship opportunities that were available locally. Employers and Training Providers who had vacancies attended the events and young people aged 16-19 from schools and colleges and those seeking work were invited to attend. In addition to having the opportunity to meet and chat to employers and training providers at their stands, up to 40 young people at each event got involved in the 'speed matching' part of the afternoon.

What is speed matching all about?

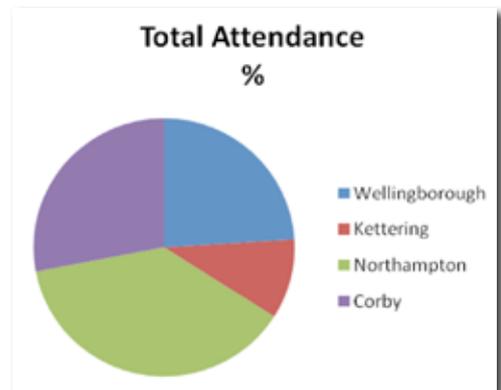
Ever heard of speed dating? Well, speed matching is based on that idea but instead the young people got the chance to meet up to 20 local employers and training providers who were looking to recruit people just like them, in a quick fire set of 3 minute interviews. Where there were matches the young people will be contacted to pursue full interviews with a view to securing a job or Apprenticeship.

Almost all the employers and training providers felt that the exercise had been extremely beneficial from their point of view, with many matches having been made between the young people and their vacancy opportunities. Some of the comments from young people:

- "Very well organised and run, opened me up to some new ideas which I hadn't thought of. Thank you."
- "It was great, very useful to me."
- "It was very helpful!"
- "Really nice people and I learnt a lot"
- "Fantastic!"
- "It's a good, useful event."
- "This helped to show all different jobs."
- "It helped me widen my scope in finding a job or a voluntary position."
- "Very good, nice to see people in person and would like to do it again."
- "Brilliant event, very useful!"
- "Good, I found a lot out."
- "Excellent process."
- "Brilliant – very helpful, thank you very much."

Over 220 young people attended and the total number of matches/follow-ups was 405. These events were so successful that we have decided to run two more in July!

These will take place on 7th July at The Park Inn, Northampton and 13th July at The Cube, Corby.



Young people feedback	😊	😐	☹️
I have enjoyed attending this event.	89%	10%	1%
I have found this event useful.	86%	12%	2%
I would like to attend a similar event in the future.	84%	13%	3%

Attendance at each event

Wellingborough	54
Corby	68
Northampton	92
Kettering	25
Total	239



Easter Fun

With the great news that PAYP funding was secured for the Easter Holidays, a number of new referrals hit my desk from various schools and agencies meaning that this project was going to be the busiest yet. With this in mind, we set about devising an active and varied timetable to keep the young people engaged during the 9 days they would be with us.



As usual, we played plenty of sports including tag rugby, rounders, football, hockey etc. as well as the new favourite "Frisbee Golf". This involved navigating around a course laid out by the staff and 6 groups then took turns to get the Frisbee into the "hole" in as few throws as possible. Inevitably, Frisbees ended up in the brook and on the roof which incurred penalty points.

Gun and knife crime expert Glen Banks delivered a powerful and thought provoking presentation to the group. With experience of working with convicted offenders in the prison service, he was able to tell real-life stories of

young people he had worked with to demonstrate the devastating effects that carrying a knife or gun can have.

John and Maggie Dunkley brought along their hearing dog Chip to talk to the group and demonstrate some of the life changing help he brings. John lost his hearing gradually through untreated perforated eardrums and is now profoundly deaf when not wearing his hearing aids.



Chip was rescued from Battersea Dog's Home by the hearing dogs charity and was trained at a cost of £5,000 to become John's companion. He assists John in getting up in the morning, letting him know that the telephone is ringing and other every day tasks a hearing person takes for granted. The young people asked lots of questions about Chip and were asked to look into ways of raising money for the charity on the next project.



This year we took part in the annual Wellingborough Big Clean around the Kingsway Centre and the brook running through Croyland Park. Items removed from the brook included the obligatory shopping trolley and surprisingly, the frame of a motorbike! Graffiti removal was also undertaken and plenty of litter picking meant the area is now spruced up for all to enjoy.

For the end of week trips we chose bowling and a meal for the first week, and Wicksteed Park for the second. We hoped that the weather would hold out for the outdoor trip, but we were not to be disappointed! Instead of ensuring the young people had a brolly and waterproof coat, sun lotion and ice creams were more important. Both trips were great fun, but the weather made Wicksteed Park all the more enjoyable and an excellent way to round off another successful project.

Clare Malings

Choices Adviser for Positive Activities for Young People



Case Study

Focus on the work of a Choices Adviser

As an adviser working in three different educational establishments my job can be varied, busy and interesting.

I work in Abbeyfield School, Kingsthorpe College and Rathbone Training Provider. My work in the two schools can be similar and is focused around the needs of the young people in that cohort. I spend a large amount of time in one to one appointments with year 10s, 11s and sixth form students. I advise year 10s to think about their plans and stimulate careers ideas and encourage year 11s to make applications and put plans in place. I have some students who I see on regular occasions for anger management and motivation work.

I find this work very rewarding and feel that I make a difference in the lives of these students who require more support. There are also many young people who require my support with vacancy applications as well as CV writing. I support young people in finding part time work as well as full time jobs and Apprenticeships.

As a newly appointed Lead CA in Kingsthorpe College I have sometimes

found the role challenging but always valuable. In my opinion choices advisers work very hard to engage the school with the Connexions services and I personally feel I work hard for the young people. I know the young people I see in school appreciate the work I do when they regularly tell me. Only the other day a young man had forgotten to attend his appointment so I visited his class and asked him if he wanted to see me. At the end of the appointment he expressed that he was glad I had come to get him and that he found my advice very useful and requested a second appointment.

I also spend a fair amount of time in school supporting students with a Statement of Educational need and who are part of the School Action Plus and Prince's Trust groups. These students require more support and I am likely to have a number of appointments with them throughout the year. Due to the number of vulnerable young people in Northampton I also attend LOT and Multi Agency meetings at Abbeyfield School and Kingsthorpe College. In my work with these young people I liaise with Social Services and Education Welfare Officers

in order to ensure they are supported as they need. I have also managed to build up a fair amount of experience with child protection cases.

Group work is also part of my role and this is often around work-seeking in schools and Rathbone. At Rathbone we have begun small group works on job seeking with 4 or 5 students to encourage them to actively seek work in the most efficient way.

Every day brings new challenges and learning opportunities and every day I am provided with proof that our work is essential and appreciated.

Laura Smith
Choices Adviser,
Connexions
Northamptonshire



Check out our website:
www.4you2.org.uk



Contact Connexions
Freephone: 0800 73 13 2 19
Email: info@4you2.org.uk
Web: www.4you2.org.uk

For further information, about anything you have seen in this publication, please contact the Quality and Performance Team on:

Email: iags@connexions-northamptonshire.org.uk
Tel: 01604 630033 Fax: 01604 633310



“Committed to Equality”

