

The *Connexions* careers magazine for staff in schools and colleges

EDITOR'S LETTER	2
CONNEXIONS SUPPORT	2
Information Services	2
Development Team Services	2
Cnx2jobs Team	3
CONNEXIONS NEWS	3
E-guidance the future?	3
Moving On 2009	3
IAG NEWS	4
Moving through the system – Information, Advice and Guidance	4
Young people 'don't want IAG via social networking'	4
EDUCATION AND TRAINING NEWS	4
New funding system comes into operation	4
A Place for Culture	4
More support for new teachers to work with disabled children	5
EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR MARKET NEWS	5
National Minimum Wage	5
Creative Bursaries Scheme	5
Valuing Employment Now	5
LMI: Jobs of the Future	6
Social network info leads to job rejections	6
587,000 engineering and manufacturing workers needed	7
Modernising Scientific Careers	7
RESOURCES	8
Statutory Guidance: Impartial Careers Education Resources Pack	8
Greater Manchester Area Wide Prospectus and Common Application Process	8
Youth Citizenship	8
Town Planning: careers materials	8
Employment rights for new dads	8
Your kids and alcohol	9
Jobcentre Plus website closes	9
PEOPLE AND PROJECTS	9
Boost to Beatbullying	9
More housing help for homeless teenage parents	9
Tackling youth crime	10
NEETs 'should not get benefits'	10
Mental health provision for young people in care	10
Tellus4 survey	10
'Youth Offer'	11
Teenage relationship abuse	11
Using new technologies safely	11
Mephedrone banned	11

Editor's letter

Welcome to the first edition of **Connexions News**. This replaces our former newsletter, Nexus. We hope that you will enjoy reading **Connexions News**, and also that you will contribute to its content.

Connexions News is intended for our colleagues in schools, colleges and other partner agencies, as well as for our Connexions staff in Manchester, Rochdale, Salford and Tameside. We have a mailing list that includes careers co-ordinators and librarians in schools and colleges in our four areas, as well as others who have previously asked to receive Nexus. If you would like to be added to the mailing list (to receive either a paper or an electronic copy), please contact Sara Osborne (contact details below).

There are a number of significant developments in the Connexions and careers world. Many of you will be considering how best to address the new IAG strategy launched in October 2009 to modernise careers education and make it accessible for today's generation of young people. Some of you may already be involved in the Inspiring IAG Quality Award. In the next section of **Connexions News**, you will find information on how we can support you.

Please send any feedback on and/or contributions for **Connexions News** to:

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Connexions Support

INFORMATION SERVICES

The Information Team is staffed by Jill Brown, the Information Manager, Sara Osborne, Senior Information Adviser, Carole Pilkington, Information Adviser, Zakiya Adams, Information Assistant and Lyn Henry, Web Administrator. We can be contacted at Lee House in Manchester (tel: 0161 245 4770). However, please bear with us if you can't get hold of us immediately. Sometimes work demands mean we are all elsewhere but, if you leave a message or e-mail us, we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

The Information Team continues to offer a wide range of support services to schools and colleges and partner agencies. An outline of these is attached. You can put this on your noticeboard for quick and easy reference.

Please contact us if you want more details about any of these, or if you wish to discuss other ways in which we may be able to help you.

To find out more about any of the Information Services, contact Jill Brown on 0161 245 4770, or e-mail:

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DEVELOPMENT TEAM SERVICES

The Development Team work with schools, colleges, work based learning providers and other partners to enhance the provision of careers education and IAG (CEIAG).

We offer the following services:

- An annual training and development programme
- Consultancy on, and audits of, CEIAG provision
- Mentoring towards the new Quality Award – Inspiring IAG

- Bespoke training courses on topics such as how to support young people in making decisions and 14-19 reform.

We also produce materials that support the delivery of careers education, IAG, work related learning and the labour market. Recent products have included cnx2lmi, the Spotlight on LMI series, It's My Life...and My Work and Progression Guides.

For more information about any of the above services contact Gareth Nixon, on 0161 245 4807 or e-mail: gareth.nixon@careers-solutions.co.uk.

CNX2JOBS TEAM

Careers Solutions has developed the Cnx2jobs brand to market job and training vacancies to young people online, and in an interactive and attractive way. The Cnx2jobs Team promotes the free recruitment service we offer to opportunity providers and the leads Connexions staff in liaising with local employers and work based training providers to source job and training opportunities for young people.

www.cnx2jobs.com

The team drives the development of www.cnx2jobs.com, the job search website for young people across the Greater Manchester region. The website means young people in schools can access hundreds of local and regional vacancies online from any location, 24/7. The interactive website provides young people and teachers with information about the labour market and can be used during group work as well as individual job search.

Vacancies for Leavers

The team manages proactive campaigns to canvass local, regional and national employers reminding them of the new entrants who will be available in the labour market as the end of the school year approaches. These campaigns are specifically designed to obtain suitable vacancies for school leavers.

For more information about any of the above services contact Suzanne Rhead on 0161 245 4917 or e-mail: Suzanne.Rhead@Careers-Solutions.co.uk

Connexions News

E-GUIDANCE THE FUTURE?

23rd June 2010 sees us running our annual Information Resources Exhibition at the Britannia Country House Hotel in West Didsbury – expect to receive full details of the event in early May.

The focus will be on the range of e-guidance resources, with presentations and workshops on a range of topics. In addition there will be displays of printed resources as well as DVDs to view.

Learning providers will find it beneficial to bring a small group of young people to the event so that they can advise on the key resources you need to enable them to make informed decisions.

MOVING ON 2009

Copies of our latest Moving On reports that detail what happened to the school leavers of 2009 have recently been distributed to schools, colleges and other partners.

A copy of the report for your local area is available as a pdf to download on your Connexions website (see below) – click on the publications tab. If you have not had a printed copy and wish to receive a copy please contact Jill Brown (jill.brown@careers-solutions.co.uk) or contact your local Connexions Manager.

www.connexions-manchester.com
www.connexions-rochdale.org.uk
www.connexions-salford.com
www.connexions-tameside.com

IAG News

MOVING THROUGH THE SYSTEM – INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Moving through the system – information, advice and guidance is a new report from Ofsted. It focuses on the importance of providing high quality information, advice and guidance to enable young people, as well as their parents and carers, to make thoughtful and well-informed choices about their next steps in education, training or employment, particularly at age 16 and beyond.

The report makes recommendations for local authorities, secondary schools and fostering services/providers of care homes.

Published in March 2010, the report can be found on the Ofsted website:
www.ofsted.gov.uk (Ref No 080273).

YOUNG PEOPLE ‘DON’T WANT IAG VIA SOCIAL NETWORKING’

A study by CfBT Education Trust has found that young people do not want to receive information, advice and guidance (IAG) on Facebook because they see social networking sites as “their private space”.

Young people thought that face to face advice and guidance was more effective than online. They also warned that they do not always respond to e-mails, despite this being seen as an effective method to communicate with young people. However, they did feel online information could play a key role.

Lauren Higgs, Children and Young People
Now 6.4.10

Education and Training News

NEW FUNDING SYSTEM COMES INTO OPERATION

The new system for allocating funding to further education and training in England came into effect on 1 April 2010.

The Skills Funding Agency will fund and regulate adult further education and skills.

There will be four direct routes into training for employers and learners:

- Train to Gain
- The National Apprenticeship Service
- The Adult Advancement and Careers Service
- FE colleges/training organisations

The new system was established under the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 which made local authorities responsible for securing education and training for all 16-19 year olds.

Also on 1 April, the Young People’s Learning Agency took up its responsibilities in 16-19 year old provision, working with the Government and local authorities to help develop and deliver their vision and plans for young people’s learning.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk> BIS News Release 1.4.10

A PLACE FOR CULTURE

The Pupil Guarantee, announced in the 21st Century Schools White Paper, will give every pupil the chance to experience at least five hours high quality cultural activities each week in and out of school.

continued

This will be achieved through partnerships between schools and external providers, including libraries, museums and performing arts organisations.

A Place for Culture: Developing a local culture offer for all children and young people can be found at www.culture.gov.uk.

MORE SUPPORT FOR NEW TEACHERS TO WORK WITH DISABLED CHILDREN

The Government has pledged more support for trainee teachers who want to work with severely disabled children in response to a review of the supply and recruitment of teachers of children with severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties.

This will include, amongst other measures:

- Discussions with Teach First (www.teachfirst.org.uk) to bring top graduates into schools to gain the skills they need to teach severely disabled children
- A new six-month specialist course for new teachers to prepare them for their first job working with children with severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties

www.dcsf.gov.uk DCSF News Release 2010/0057 5.3.10

Employment and Labour Market News

NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE

The new rates, which will come into force on 1 October 2010, will be:

- £5.93 per hour for workers aged 21 and over
- £4.92 per hour for 18-20 year olds
- £3.64 per hour for 16-17 year olds

A recommendation from the Low Pay Commission on an apprentice minimum wage has also been accepted. This will be £2.50 per hour for apprentices aged under 19, as well as for those aged over 19 but in the first year of their apprenticeship.

The Pay and Work Rights helpline number is 0800 917 2368.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk> BIS News Release 25.3.10

CREATIVE BURSARIES SCHEME

A two-year grants programme to help talented graduates find work in the arts was announced in March to begin in September.

The pilot programme will provide at least 40 internships (a minimum of 20 year-long opportunities in each year) with established arts companies for graduates from low income backgrounds.

More information is available from 020 7211 6200.

www.culture.gov.uk Department for Culture, Media and Sport News Release 031/10 8.3.10

VALUING EMPLOYMENT NOW

Valuing Employment Now is a cross-government strategy which aims to increase radically the number of people with moderate and severe learning disabilities in employment by 2025.

A new online resource hub has been launched to help people with moderate and severe learning disabilities into employment. It includes a film featuring eight people with moderate or severe learning difficulties who are employed for 16 or more hours per week.

continued

Other resources in the online hub are a self assessment tool for local authorities to review the employment support they offer, case studies featuring people with moderate and severe learning disabilities in full time jobs, and accessible information for people with learning difficulties about getting a job and benefits.

The online resource hub is at www.valuingpeople.gov.uk/venresources.

LMI: JOBS OF THE FUTURE

Jobs of the Future (published by the Cabinet Office, Sept 2009, Crown Copyright) outlines where, as a result of expected growth and emerging global trends, new jobs could be created in the UK economy of the future. It identifies how the UK's labour market is set to change, as well as the potential employment opportunities that key sectors of the economy could generate.

Around 29 million people currently work in the UK and, despite the current tough global conditions, Britain's economy is predicted to create 1.5 million skilled jobs in the coming years. The overall number of highly-skilled jobs in the economy will increase, as lower-skilled jobs decline.

The last 20 years has already seen a significant shift in the structure of the UK economy. Increased competition from low-wage emerging economies combined with productivity growth and technological change have led to a broad move from manufacturing to the service sector.

Globalisation has increased the number of companies operating across multiple countries, and led to a rise in demand for supporting ICT, business and financial services. It is in these sectors, alongside other services such as sporting, recreational, cultural, social and personal services, where the UK has seen the biggest gains in employment.

There has also been significant growth in employment in the public sector, particularly in health and education.

Rising living standards and levels of disposable income over the period have led to growth and increased employment in the retail, hotel and restaurant sectors. There have also been significant employment gains in construction and associated real estate services.

However, the recent recession has brought job losses across a wide range of industries and occupations, particularly manufacturing, financial services, construction, retail and leisure services. Some of these will rebound quickly as the economy recovers, while others will grow more slowly than in the past.

As a knowledge economy, the UK will increasingly compete on the commercial values of its ideas and the higher-level skills of its people. It is estimated that 33% of the UK workforce is employed in jobs that are highly knowledge intensive, with a further 27% working in roles that have some knowledge content.

For more information on predicted growth across different sectors, see Jobs of the Future at http://www.hmg.gov.uk/media/41730/jobs_of_the_future.pdf. (Note underscores where there appear to be spaces.)

SOCIAL NETWORK INFO LEADS TO JOB REJECTIONS

53% of employers have used social networking sites to research job candidates according to a CareerBuilder.co.uk survey.

43% reported they have found content that caused them not to hire the candidate.

continued

In the top examples given, the candidate:

- Lied about their qualifications
- Showed poor communication skills
- Made discriminatory comments
- Posted content about them drinking/using drugs
- Posted provocative or inappropriate photographs or information
- Bad-mouthed their previous employer, co-workers or clients
- Shared confidential information from previous employer

28% of employers reported that they had fired a member of staff for information found on their social networking site.

www.recruitmenttoday.net Mike Jones, Recruitment Today 14.1.10

587,000 ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING WORKERS NEEDED

A report from Engineering today predicts that the UK economy will need to recruit over half a million engineering and manufacturing workers with state of the art skills by 2017.

The report also highlights barriers to this happening, including 16% fewer school leavers by 2019, 30% fall in FE lecturers in engineering and manufacturing and 17% drop in HE students studying for degrees in production and manufacturing engineering.

Other statistics include:

- 366,000 workers including engineers, technicians and machine and transport operatives needed in the transport sector by 2017
- 389,000 engineering workers and other workers with skilled trades needed in the construction industry by 2017
- 21,000 workers needed in electricity, gas, water, mining and quarrying by 2017
- 1,000 new apprentices and graduates needed every year till 2025 in the nuclear industry just to replace the retiring workforce
- 60% of the aerospace and defence workforce with retire in the next 20 years

More information is at www.engineeringuk.com.
www.icg-uk.org Institute of Careers Guidance 15.1.10

MODERNISING SCIENTIFIC CAREERS

The healthcare science workforce consists of around 50,000 people in England alone working in the NHS and its related bodies.

The size and range of skills in this workforce indicates the extent to which science, technology, engineering and mathematics are applied to healthcare across the biosciences, encompassing biology, genetics, physiology, physics and bioengineering.

The Modernising Scientific Careers programme will ensure that this workforce keeps pace with scientific and technological development by building sustainable education and training pathways. Career structures will be simplified and more closely aligned to those of other healthcare professionals.

Modernising Scientific Careers (published 1.4.10) can be found at www.dh.gov.uk.

Resources

STATUTORY GUIDANCE: IMPARTIAL CAREERS EDUCATION RESOURCES PACK

A new Resources Pack to help senior leaders in schools and PRUs to implement the Statutory Guidance: Impartial Careers Education (DCSF, October 2009) has been published.

The Pack contains resources for both managing and implementing impartial careers education, including reviewing tools, a framework of learning outcomes and suggested activities for achieving them, fact cards on post-16 pathways, choices programmes on DVD and Ways and Choices Sets one and two.

Ways and Choices are interactive lessons to inspire and motivate young people to make effective decisions about their career pathways.

For more information or to download/order the Resources Pack, go to www.cegnet.co.uk.

GREATER MANCHESTER AREA WIDE PROSPECTUS AND COMMON APPLICATION PROCESS

The name for the new Greater Manchester Area Wide Prospectus and Common Application Process website will be MyCourseMyFuture.

Two domain names have been registered:

www.mycoursemyfuture.com and www.mycoursemyfuture.co.uk.

Initially, these will redirect users to www.greatermanchesterfutures.com until the new site is ready.

YOUTH CITIZENSHIP

A new online hub has been launched for young people to access funding, information and local opportunities to support youth engagement.

This is part of the Government's response to the independent Youth Citizenship Commission.

The hub can be found at www.direct.gov.uk/joinin.

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk Cabinet Office News Release CAB010-10 4.2.10

TOWN PLANNING: CAREERS MATERIALS

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) has produced a new set of careers materials, including a booklet (Planning Your Career), postcards and an A3 poster.

The careers section on the RTPI's website has been updated and there is a new resources page at www.rtpi.org.uk/careers.

Copies of the new materials can be downloaded from the website or ordered via careers@rtpi.org.uk.

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS FOR NEW DADS

A new leaflet outlining rights for dads at work had been published by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

It can be downloaded from <http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/docs/r/10-618-rights-for-dads-at-work-leaflet>.

More information on work and family rights for fathers can be found at www.direct.gov.uk/dadsatwork.

YOUR KIDS AND ALCOHOL

A recent Drinkaware YouGov poll showed over a third of 16/17 year olds would prefer to get information on alcohol from their parents.

Research shows children's openness to their parents' influence changes dramatically as they grow up. Between the ages of 8 and 12, children generally accept what their parents say about alcohol. From 13 onwards, though, young people increasingly pay attention to their friends.

However, parents might still have more influence than they think, and a new leaflet sets out to answer questions parents and their children may have about alcohol. It offers advice to parents on how best to approach their children on the subject.

The leaflet (ref: BLNK-00076-2010) can be downloaded from <http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk>.

A website aimed at parents and teenagers can be found at <http://whyletdrinkdecide.direct.gov.uk>.

JOBCENTRE PLUS WEBSITE CLOSES

The Jobcentre plus website closed on 31 March and its content moved to three other sites.

- Content for customers can be found at www.direct.gov.uk
- Information for employers is at www.businesslink.gov.uk
- Partner information has moved to www.dwp.gov.uk.

Touchbase, DWP, March 2010
www.dwp.gov.uk/advisers

People and Projects

BOOST TO BEATBULLYING

The DCSF is to continue its investment in Beatbullying's CyberMentors programme. www.CyberMentors.org.uk is a safe social networking site providing information and support for young people being bullied or cyberbullied.

Young people, aged 11-25, are trained as CyberMentors in schools and online to offer support to their peers, and trained counsellors are available online to support them if needed.

Over 400,000 young people have engaged with the service so far.

www.dcsf.gov.uk DCSF News Release
29.3.10

MORE HOUSING HELP FOR HOMELESS TEENAGE PARENTS

Last autumn, the Government announced that all 16 and 17 year old teenage parents should receive housing, with support, as part of a broader commitment to provide by 2012 housing with support for all 16 and 17 year olds who cannot stay with their family. A range of different support options will be offered, depending on need. This can include Foyer and supported housing projects, supported lodgings or floating support.

Revised statutory guidance to local authorities on how they can better meet the needs of homeless 16 and 17 year olds has just been published. This means local authorities will have to work proactively with young people and their families to identify and resolve issues which have led them to become homeless. Much of this work will be targeted early intervention to help prevent family breakdown and keep families together.

continued

The guidance makes it clear that homeless 16 and 17 year olds should be accommodated as a looked after child, rather than under homelessness legislation, if the child is, in the local authority's judgement, a 'child in need' as defined in the Children Act 1989.

www.dcsf.gov.uk DCSF News Release 1.4.10

TACKLING YOUTH CRIME

The Government's Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP) has had a positive impact on communities across the country. There has been:

- A 21.6% decline in first time young people entering the criminal justice system from 2007/8 to 2008/9.
- A 24.8% decline in youth reoffending from 2000 to 2008.
- The engaging of over 300,000 young people through targeted support to help them back on track.

An update to the YCAP outlines a commitment to reducing youth crime further, and action to be taken to make this happen.

The Action Plan can be found in the Youth Justice section at <http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk>.

www.dcsf.gov.uk DCSF News Release 1.4.10

NEETS 'SHOULD NOT GET BENEFITS'

A committee of MPs has recommended that young people in England should not receive state benefits unless they are working, training or in education.

They have suggested adopting a scheme used in the Netherlands, where rates of youth unemployment are consistently low and where young people up to the age of 27 have a more unified support structure. The Dutch equivalent of Jobseeker's Allowance is dependent on being in work, education or training.

The report also raised concerns about the use of the term, NEET (not in education, employment or training), which they said was a negative term that risked stigmatising the young people to whom it is applied.

www.bbc.co.uk/news 7.4.10

MENTAL HEALTH PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

An Ofsted report says that access to child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) is inconsistent for young people in care, with provision varying from good to none at all.

The report emphasises the importance of different agencies working together to improve and develop services for young people.

An Evaluation of the Provision of Mental Health Services for Looked After Young People over the Age of 16 Accommodated in Residential Settings (ref 080260, Feb 2010) can be found at www.ofsted.gov.uk.

TELLUS4 SURVEY

The Tellus4 survey was undertaken online in autumn 2009 by 253,755 children and young people in years 6, 8 and 10 in primary, secondary and special schools and PRUs.

Key Findings:

- Most respondents feel happy about life, have good friends and are positive about their school.
- Most plan to remain in learning and about 60% intend to go to higher education in the future.
- Some experience bullying (at least weekly), but most feel their school deals well with it.
- Many are active both during and after school and at weekends (especially boys), and say that they typically eat 3-4 portions of fruit/vegetables per day.

continued

- Most do not smoke or take drugs and the majority who have tried alcohol do not get drunk regularly.
- Around 60% participate in group activities led by an adult, and around half are satisfied with parks/play areas.

The full report is at <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR218.pdf>.

‘YOUTH OFFER’

The Government has outlined a comprehensive ‘youth offer’ to provide world-class facilities and activities for Britain’s teenagers and young people. It includes guarantees that:

- Volunteering and community action opportunities will be available for all young people so they can play a positive role in their communities
- Modern youth centres will be in every area of the country, offering all young people advice, careers guidance and fun activities, especially at weekends and on Friday and Saturday evenings
- All young people will have access to high quality PE and sport so that they take part for five hours a week

The Government also said over 2000 play sites will be open from April, with a further 1500 expected to open by April 2011. The intention is that the sites designed with young people and their families, will kick-start young people’s enthusiasm for taking an active role in their community and will set them up for fun and healthy teenage years.

www.dcsf.gov.uk DCSF News Release 23.3.10

TEENAGE RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

In 2009 NSPCC research revealed that abuse in teenage relationships is highly prevalent and that teenagers have surprisingly tolerant attitudes to violence in relationships.

Evidence shows that coercive and controlling behaviour can escalate into both physical and sexual abuse and lead to repeat incidents. It is important to try to break this behaviour before it settles into a pattern for both offenders and victims.

Information aimed at young people, parents, crime agencies, health professionals and educators can be accessed at www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/teenrelationshipsabuse.

USING NEW TECHNOLOGIES SAFELY

Ofsted has found that students in schools that use ‘managed’ online systems have a better knowledge of how to stay safe when using new technologies.

‘Managed’ systems have fewer inaccessible sites than ‘locked’ systems and so require students to take more responsibility for their own safety. Whilst ‘locked’ systems ensure students’ safety in schools, they do not encourage them to take responsibility for their actions or prepare them for dealing with systems that are not locked.

The Safe Use Of Technologies is at www.ofsted.gov.uk.

MEPHEDRONE BANNED

The Government banned mephedrone and its related compounds making them Class B drugs from 16 April 2010 following recommendations from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs.

Other ‘legal high’ drugs (synthetic cannabinonids, GBL, BZP) were banned in December 2009.

<http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk> Home Office News Release 29.3.10

www.bbc.co.uk/news 12.4.10



Careers Solutions Information Team

Careers Solutions is the trading name of Better Choices Limited.
Providing Connexions Services in Manchester, Rochdale, Salford and Tameside

Services for You

This is a summary of the services offered by Careers Solutions' Information Team. Please contact us on 0161 245 4770 for more details about any of these, or if you wish to discuss other ways in which we may be able to help you.

SOFTWARE AGENCIES:

Kudos, Careerscape, LaunchPad, Adult Directions, Higher Ideas, JED, Ani-MODS, KeyCLIPS, eCLIPS, Exodus and Eisodos are available at discounted cost. Licences run from 1 April – 31 March each year, and you are given the option of renewing licences in the early spring.

In addition, we can supply *Real Game* and *Fast Tomato*.

CLIPS:

A series of over 500 annually updated Connexions/careers information leaflets is available on subscription. The leaflets cover thousands of education, training and career opportunities, as well as general information relating to the whole Connexions agenda. Subscribers are free to reproduce CLIPS leaflets for their own use and that of their students.

CLIPS is the paper version of KeyCLIPS/eCLIPS.

RESOURCE LOAN SYSTEM:

A range of Connexions/careers resources, including videos and careers education materials, is available for loan to schools, colleges and others. *(Please note that copyright waivers on the materials apply only to Better Choices as the purchasing organisation.)*

You can also visit the Resource Base in Lee House, Manchester to view resources. Please ring to arrange a time.

CONNEXIONS/CAREERS LIBRARY CONSULTANCY:

Our consultancy service can help you evaluate and develop your Connexions/careers library.

Consultancy time can be used to examine and discuss topics such as the best location, layout and organisation for the library, access to it, and systems to maintain it in a comprehensive, current and simple-to-use style. It can also include discussion about reference books and other materials, with recommendations on the best resources for each library.

Support, advice and training on the use of software packages and CLIPS are also available as part of the consultancy, as is training for student librarians using our *YPIC Resource Pack*.

CONNEXIONS/CAREERS LIBRARY SIGNS/LABELS:

A set of signage to help and encourage students to use the Connexions/careers library can be purchased. This includes library box labels using the Connexions Resource Centre Index (CRCI).

We can also prepare A3 and A4 posters to advise your students of when your Connexions PA is in school/college.