

connexions

TAMESIDE



Connexions Tameside

A service for young people

Introducing Connexions and Better Choices

The Connexions Service provides impartial information, advice, guidance and support services (IAG) to all young people 13 –19, and to 25 for young people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD). In doing this, Connexions works closely with the local authority, delivering Children and Young Peoples' services, parents and carers as well as schools, colleges, employers, training providers and other youth support organisations.

Better Choices Limited, trading as Careers Solutions, is contracted by Tameside MBC, Rochdale MBC, City of Manchester and City of Salford to deliver the Connexions Service in those areas, in line with national requirements, including the Secretary of State's statutory duty to secure careers services for young people.

Better Choices delivers its Connexions Services via locally based Connexions Centres, staffed by a range of professionally qualified staff, including Personal Advisers, who are supported by our central services teams based in our Headquarters in the centre of Manchester.

Our aims are to:

- ▶ Help young people make the right choices for a successful transition into adult life.
- ▶ Identify those young people who may need additional help to overcome personal difficulties and obstacles to learning and progression.
- ▶ Maximise the number of young people participating in education, employment and training.

Our staff work closely with:

- ▶ Educational establishments
- ▶ Training providers and employers
- ▶ Local Authorities Childrens and Young Peoples Services teams
- ▶ Learning and Skills Council
- ▶ Jobcentre Plus
- ▶ Youth Offending Teams
- ▶ Counselling services
- ▶ Housing services
- ▶ Benefits Agency
- ▶ Voluntary agencies.

Connexions provides information, advice and guidance on:

- ▶ Careers
- ▶ Education and training – courses and routes
- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Relationships
- ▶ Health and wellbeing
- ▶ Teen parenthood and sexual health
- ▶ Substance misuse and addiction
- ▶ Money and young peoples' personal finance
- ▶ Leisure and personal development opportunities
- ▶ Young people's rights

Our Personal Advisers:

- ▶ Come from a range of backgrounds. They are professionally qualified to work with all young people 13 – 19; in addition some Personal Advisers have a specialist role. Personal Advisers provide help to all young people making choices about their next steps, but also focus on those who have barriers to learning, and in particular non-attenders and those at risk of dropping out of learning, or not making a successful transition to

education, employment or training (EET). In doing this they work closely with retention services in schools, colleges and local authority services.

Generally there are two types of Personal Advisers supporting young people, though in some cases, Personal Advisers perform a hybrid role covering both:

- ▶ The education based Personal Adviser provides careers information, advice and guidance and will also assist with the planning the careers education provision in schools and colleges. They work with school and college staff responsible for inclusion to identify and offer appropriate support to young people who are likely to experience difficulty progressing into education, employment and training. In doing this they work with other relevant groups and agencies.
- ▶ Community based Personal Advisers work with 16 – 19 year olds who need help to find suitable education, employment and training. This often involves helping to resolve a range of problems and enlisting the support of other Connexions staff and other agencies with specialist responsibilities.

Young people are entitled to receive from Connexions

- ▶ Information about where and how they can access a Personal Adviser.
- ▶ Impartial information, advice and guidance through personal interviews or group work sessions that explores their ideas and identifies the routes and choices available.
- ▶ An action plan setting out their choices and next steps.
- ▶ Intensive specialist help and support to resolve specific issues and problems, including an assessment of need and attendance at Transition reviews for young people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD).
- ▶ Help with finding suitable opportunities in further learning including further and higher education, employment and training.
- ▶ Support to access and use careers and other information, including the careers library and computer aided guidance tools.
- ▶ Access to services we provide through our Connexions Centres.
- ▶ Web-based information via our Connexions website www.connexions-tameside.com and vacancy information via www.cnx2jobs.com.
- ▶ On-going help and support until they have made a successful transition, including regular checks to find out how they are progressing.
- ▶ Help in making applications for work and training.
- ▶ Help in making applications for financial support to assist their further learning.
- ▶ Our Year 11 'cnx2 your future' booklet.

Strategic Partnership Agreements and delivery plans:

Connexions work in school or college is described in a Strategic Partnership Agreement, which is negotiated annually by a senior manager from Connexions and senior school or college staff. The Strategic Partnership Agreement is delivered via termly delivery plans that are agreed and reviewed by the lead Connexions Personal Adviser and the careers co-ordinator or pastoral staff.

This enables Connexions to ensure that it delivers relevant and timely services to young people, that also help schools and colleges achieve their targets.

We can help you achieve your targets:

- ▶ in reducing the numbers of 16 year olds leaving school with an unknown destination - the Connexions Service continues to provide support to all students beyond school leaving age and tracks 100% of leavers until the age of 19.
- ▶ in reducing the numbers of school leavers becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) – Connexions has researched NEET young people to identify key factors which enable us to predict those likely to become NEET and we'll work closely with you to target those young people who need encouragement and support to achieve.
- ▶ to increase the numbers of young people in EET (Employment, Education and Training) – in Years 9 to 11, Connexions works to support school and LEA attendance initiatives at both strategic and practical levels – and we target College, Apprenticeship and Employment based young people to ensure that they succeed and progress once they have left school.
- ▶ to increase in EET targeted groups such as young people with substance misuse issues, care leavers, teenage parents and those with identified support needs including those with a Statement of Special Educational Needs.
- ▶ through the engagement of young people with issues relating to crime, by linking with agencies such as YOT to ensure a joint approach.
- ▶ through multi agency working, Connexions will strive to ensure that the most appropriate external agencies are informed of issues concerning young people to access support which will enable them to succeed.

We can also work with school on initiatives such as:

- ▶ Healthy Schools
- ▶ 14-19 Curriculum developments
- ▶ Citizenship
- ▶ Diplomas
- ▶ Young Apprenticeships
- ▶ Aim Higher - Widening Participation
- ▶ Work with Gifted and Talented
- ▶ Alternative Curriculum

Help from your local Connexions Personal Advisers, Team Managers and Operations Manager is available and we will be very pleased to discuss these aspects further.



Better Choices Central Teams:

Our central services provide a range of additional support to the Local Authority, schools, colleges and other partners to ensure that the requirements of the following are met.

- ▶ The Quality Standards for Young People's Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)
- ▶ Section 68-79 of Education and Skills Act 2008 which transferred the statutory responsibility for the Connexions Service from the Secretary of State, to Local Authorities

Development Services offer:

- ▶ Audits of careers education with recommended actions.
- ▶ Consultancy on careers education provision and how it can be integrated with work related learning, enterprise, citizenship and the personal development curriculum.
- ▶ Awareness raising for tutors/non-specialist deliverers of Careers Education and Guidance (CEG).
- ▶ Support on developing the IAG workforce.
- ▶ Mentoring for the Greater Manchester quality award ACE (Award for Connexions Excellence) – prior to assessment.
- ▶ Training on the use of on-line prospectuses/Individual Learning Plans.
- ▶ Presentations on 14-19 reforms, including the new Diplomas.
- ▶ LMI Work Matters www.wmgm.co.uk.

We are also able to produce materials that support the delivery of careers education, IAG, work related learning and the labour market.

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

Information Services offer:

- ▶ Connexions/careers library consultancy to evaluate and develop schools and college careers libraries.
- ▶ Training to staff and students to make the best use of the careers library and careers software programs.
- ▶ Access to our central Resources Library and loan system to support professional development and enhancement of Careers Education and Guidance.
- ▶ Agency services to access careers software and other licence subscriptions at a discount.
- ▶ Library signage and labels to promote information resources.
- ▶ Nexus newsletter for careers professionals.
- ▶ Financial support to develop and maintain careers information resources.
- ▶ 'Moving on' activity reports on the destinations of Year 11 leavers.
- ▶ Connexions websites: www.connexions-tameside.com

For more information about any of the above services contact Jill Brown on 0161 245 4770 or email jill.brown@careers-solutions.co.uk

Cnx2 Jobs Initiative Team offer:

- ▶ A free recruitment service to opportunity providers.
- ▶ www.cnx2jobs.com Job search website for young people across Greater Manchester.
- ▶ Account management links with employers offering vacancies to Year 11 – 13 leavers.
- ▶ Cnx2jobs roadshows in educational and community settings to market vacancies to young job seekers.

For more information about any of the above services contact Suzanne Rhead on 0161 245 4917 or email suzanne.rhead@careers-solutions.co.uk

Getting in touch with Connexions:

Connexions is dedicated to helping the people using our services, so your views are important, as they will help shape the development of our services.

Connexions Tameside

Sheila Piazza Connexions Manager:

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Email sheila.piazza@connexion-tameside.com

Find your nearest Connexions Centre:

084567 13 2 19

www.connexions-tameside.com