



Connexions

Something for every
13 -19 year old



What is Connexions do?

- It is a national service providing:
 - advice
 - guidance
 - support
 - personal development
 - impartial information
- It helps young people to engage in employment, education and training (EET)



Accessing the service

- **Advisors are based in schools, colleges, and Connexions centres. They can also be reached in community centres and youth work provision.**
- **Connexions is for all young people whether they are currently engaged in education, employment and training or not. For those who need the most help, Connexions will reach out to provide the extra support needed.**
- **Parents and carers are also encouraged to get involved and can talk to PAs (Personal Advisors) face-to-face or on the `phone.**

Service provision in a variety of contexts

Personal Advisors (PA):

- **Work in schools and colleges**
- **Work in Connexions centres and the community**
- **Work intensively with young people facing barriers to progress**
- **Work with those who have learning difficulties and disabilities**
- **Work with targeted groups. Connexions are focusing on the hard to reach groups particularly GRT communities.**

Intensive Work With Young People Facing Complex Barriers to Progress

- **Intensive Personal Advisors (IPA) provide this service. They have a small caseload of about 25 young people enabling them to have frequent, in-depth contact with clients.**
- **Interviews with young people may be held at a Connexions Centre, at a young person's home or at another mutually agreed venue.**
- **There are local arrangements for referral for intensive support**
- **IPAs work closely with colleagues in other agencies and often broker the provision of specialised services**
- **Some PAs work exclusively with specific target groups, such as ethnic minority groups, care leavers, young mothers and asylum seekers. In Berkshire there is an IPA who works specifically with the GRT Communities.**

Supporting Young People With Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities

Support for young people who have been assessed as special needs is provided by PAs belonging to the Special Needs Team. Special Needs PAs:

- **Provide information, advice, guidance and support for young people in special schools, specialist units and educated out of county.**
- **Attend LA Special Needs Review Panels arranged to discuss individual cases, along with staff from schools, the LSC (Learning and Skills Council), Social Services, the Education Welfare Service and other agencies.**
- **Attend Transition Reviews for school pupils in Years 9 to 14, plus LSC funded specialist college students where appropriate**
- **Ensure the completion of statutory assessments and moving on plans during years 11 to 14**
- **Prepare LSC funding applications for out-of-county provision on behalf of special needs clients who need to continue education in an appropriate, protected environment**
- **Train and advise PAs in procedures for working with young people having learning difficulties and/or disabilities, who are not in special schools**

Connexions provides relevant management information about 13-25 year olds that is used by many partners who provide services for young people

School base route

- **80% of young people meet Connexions in this way.**
- **All young people in Year 11 receiving formal education will have dedicated Education Personal Advisor (EPA) consultations throughout the whole year aimed at targeting their post-school goals.
Their progress will be monitored particularly through the transitional period (15/16-19)**
- **If they change aspirations or if they leave, any PA around the country will be able to access their information and provide help.**
- **Year 11 or young people of that age are not officially allowed to formally work or engage in full-time college courses until June 1st. This applies to all young people.**
- **Connexions are aware of young people out of school and the issues that this raises.**

School base route for mobile students

- **When students are in Year 10, they need to make themselves known to the school EPA (Education Personal Advisor) who will ensure that they are registered on the system. An alert note will be placed on their file for the PA to pick up at the beginning of year 11.**
- **In year 10 the student's parents / carer will need to sign a data protection consent form which will:**
 - **alert the EPA at the beginning of year 11 that the student will be mobile nationally. This authorises the national Connexions services to share and discuss information kept on the data base.**
 - **highlight the specific requirements of the young person given their mobility and enable resources to be identified.**
 - **the young person's aspirations will be constantly updated to target their relevant goals.**

What happened to students over 16?

- **Students over 16 and above the school leaving age (after the last Friday in June) need to go to the local Connexions office to register and complete a data protection form so that information can be shared with other Connexions offices.**
- **If they are familiar with TES they should be able to contact the TES to get the local Connexions address and telephone number.**
- **If they have access to the internet, search for *Connexions*, identify the local area to find the local office or the community centre.**
- **Connexions can offer a range of support e.g. completion of forms, identify relevant courses, applying for National Insurance card, access to computers and IT support, identify possible funds for projects and link to other agencies.**

Types of courses available

- **Distance learning from 'home' received by post or e-mail.**
- **These courses also have a practical element which comes in 2 blocks of one week. They can be taken in various colleges which offer several dates to choose from.**
- **Some colleges offer credit based courses which students can do at different times.**
- **Short term courses which usually last 8 weeks. However availability is limited on these courses.**
- **Students can search for colleges and courses on the internet by typing the name of a county followed by online prospectus to find more information.
(eg: berkshire online prospectus)**