

Summary of main themes emerging from responses to the Connexions Consultation of 6th January 2011.

PLEASE NOTE: Hard copies of all responses received are available in the Members' Room.

Broad themes raised within the various response documents:

- Need for recognition of the role of all Connexions staff and their pride and professionalism in the work they do.
- Need for recognition of the impact of the process and how upsetting and stressful this has been for individuals especially the time frame. For example, IPAs have been at risk of redundancy since August.
- Numbers of posts at risk of redundancy represents a large percentage of frontline service provision.
- Recognition via case studies and statements of support that the work of the teams is recognised and valued by colleagues in Children's Services, schools and colleges and across the youth sector in general, as well as by young people and their families.
- Decision to reduce statutory Connexions services, especially in terms of IAG provision and support for young people with SEN / LDD, before new legislation / arrangements have been agreed and made law. How does this sit with the IAG standards?
- Lack of capacity in original proposals to allow BHCC to meet its statutory requirements and provide a necessary and valued service to young people in Brighton & Hove
- Disproportionate level of reduction in funding and resource for Connexions services – role of the Early Intervention Grant (EIG) in meeting this
- There is no consistent picture of what is happening across the country to Connexions and how local authorities are dealing with this. The decisions about funding are being made locally and vary considerably.
- Implications in dismantling the service to this extent for wider city strategies including 14 – 19 strategy, targeted youth support, progression rates, Intelligent Commissioning etc
- Implications in dismantling the service to this extent for young people in the city in particular:

- Young people who are NEET
 - Young people with LDD
 - Young people who require support in transition post-16
 - Young people pre-16 requiring IAG to allow them to make informed choices in years 9, 11 and post-16
 - Vulnerable young people requiring more intensive support
- Statutory requirements around support for students with SEN / LDD
 - Section 139A reviews – in special and mainstream schools
 - YPLA funding applications
 - Home / Host arrangements
 - Support for School Action + / School Action
 - Risk of legal challenge
- Lack of clarity in what the new service will look like in terms of:
 - Aims and objectives
 - Make-up of teams
 - Line management – supervision, training etc
 - Administrative base
 - Public access base
 - Accessibility of public access base
 - How the new service will work
 - How it will link with other support services across the city
 - How young people will access / be referred to service
 - Links with schools and colleges
 - Links with Jobcentre Plus and benefit system
- Lack of consultation with young people, residents and other stakeholders
- Transition arrangements from present service to new service.
 - Work in schools / colleges
 - Current caseloads, especially Intensive Support
 - Tracking and MI obligations
- Who will pick up the work to fill the 'gaps'?
 - Schools / colleges do not have the capacity or expertise
 - SEN team does not have capacity
 - Are we asking youth workers and other support agencies to expand their role to provide more 'intensive' support?
 - Who will provide support to the very vulnerable YP in the city?
- How will national MI requirements be met:
 - Tracking of young people
 - Monthly NEET and 'unknowns' targets
 - Intended destinations

- Annual Activity Survey
 - September Guarantee
- HR issues:
 - Job descriptions
 - Rationale for some posts deleted
 - Rationale for ring-fencing of posts
 - Interview / recruitment process

