

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011

**Title:** **The Future of a Professional Careers Service**

The future of information advice and guidance services for young people is in the process of being undermined. Whilst the reduction in Government funding to Local Authorities and the reasons behind them are well publicised, NCN is aware that there will be unintended consequences. These consequences could do irreparable damage to service areas such as the provision of careers advice and guidance for young people in particular, which are an important part of the Coalition Government's strategy for education and skills and increasing social mobility.

The critical changes are heralded in the Education Bill which seeks to place a duty on schools to secure and fund careers guidance for pupils rather than fund this directly through an impartial service which is independent of institutional bias.

The consequences are being felt throughout England and many professional Careers Adviser jobs are at risk, as well as important infrastructure, such as high street centres which have had significant investment in them in recent years.

NCN believes that an independently funded service providing professional, qualified and independent careers advisers are a vital resource for the country, particularly at a time of challenging employment opportunities. We welcome the Government's proposals for a new all age career service in England to be delivered by 2012 but regret the major cuts to existing Connexions Services before the new service is established. We are concerned that the skilled workforce of careers professionals are lacking certainty about their futures and we are alarmed that half or more of the careers workforce could be lost during the transition phase unless it is properly planned. We urge the Government to work with the NCN, schools, colleges and local authorities, as well as other important stakeholders to ensure that effective transition planning and guaranteed finance will be delivered to enable a strong careers guidance network to remain in place across the country.

With unemployment amongst the 16 – 24 age group reaching a record high of 965k in this very challenging economic climate, the impact will be felt most by young people who may not get the high quality advice and guidance they need as they leave school and prepare for Higher Education or entry to the labour market.

Ends.

**Notes:**

The NCN is a membership organisation for those who share a commitment to improving the provision of high quality careers education, information, advice and guidance services for young people, ensuring young people achieve employability and a successful transition to adult and working life.

**NCN Chair**

Andrew Simmons  
Deputy Director, Services for Young People  
Youth Connexions Hertfordshire

**NCN Chair-Elect**

Katharine Horler  
Chief Executive  
Connexions Thames Valley

For further information please contact Sarah Hope:

E-mail: [shope@connexions-leics.org](mailto:shope@connexions-leics.org)  
Telephone: 0116 2615921  
Website: [www.ncnxcn.org](http://www.ncnxcn.org)