

Connexions - current service

NEET: Prevention

Connexions advisers provide targeted 1:1 support for identified vulnerable students in all city mainstream and special schools to support the transition to education and training at the end of Year 11, so preventing NEET (**Not in Education, Employment or Training**).

Young people prioritised for support include SEND students with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and Looked After Children from Year 9 (age 13) onwards.

Connexions SEND advisers ensure there is a focus on preparing for adult life, including employment and training, is included in each young person's EHCP.

Statutory guidance states that 'local authorities should pay particular attention to children and young people with SEND as they are significantly less likely to participate than their peers'.

Connexions advisers also attend the annual review of Personal Education Plans for Looked after Children from Year 10 (age 14) onward. The adviser provides 1:1 specialist career advice to help them explore their education, employment and training options after they leave school. There is a particular focus on making applications for colleges in Year 11, including accompanying them to college open days and interview preparation.

From Year 11 onwards, the support from Connexions personal advisers is extended to include support to other 'vulnerable' students progressing from school into post 16 opportunities and in order to prevent NEET. This includes those known to the Youth Offending Service, teenage parents, young carers, those with a personal support and behaviour plan (to prevent exclusion) and those on an alternative curriculum.

From Easter onwards, Connexions Advisers provide support to any young person in Year 11 who does not have an offer of learning for September or who have been rejected in their applications for college.

NEET: Reengagement

NEET young people receive intensive support to help them to progress into education, employment or training. Included in the NEET group are young people who are early leavers or those who drop out of college courses, those being dismissed from employment or training, leaving custody or not yet ready to progress into Education, Employment and Training without help to make them more 'work ready'. This support includes job/training search, matching to vacancies, creation of a CV, application and interview preparation, and raising their confidence and self-esteem.

A small number of young people are eligible to register for unemployment benefits if they live independently from their parents. Connexions support young people to make an application for benefits where there is an entitlement.

Other Careers Information, Advice & Guidance Services

Schools and Colleges since 2012, have the responsibility for securing access to independent and impartial Careers Education Advice and Guidance for their students. The Connexions service provides a paid for careers guidance offer which is purchased by approximately 16 schools and colleges.

Connexions manage the contract with First Media on behalf of schools and colleges. This is an electronic application system used young people in schools to apply for colleges and training courses after Year 11.