

## Summer is here...



...so welcome to this edition of C & K Careers' newsletter. The big news is that the commissioning and tendering processes for the Connexions information, advice and guidance (IAG) service in Calderdale and Kirklees have now been completed. I am delighted to say that both local authorities have selected C&K Careers as the Connexions Information Advice and Guidance provider. Apart from securing the continuation of C&K Careers for the foreseeable future, I hope you will agree that this provides a brilliant opportunity for a fresh start for Connexions services locally and a new impetus for the improvement of careers IAG. The other piece of news is that I have announced my intention to retire at the end of September this year. The process of appointing my successor is nearing completion. I feel sure that the person appointed has a superb springboard to take our services to new heights!

Jack Costello

## iip, iip Hooray!!

Calderdale & Kirklees Careers has once again retained Investor in People accreditation, adding to previous successes



### INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

in Chartermark and Matrix assessments. According to assessor Sue Smallburn, the company 'clearly met all the requirements'. In giving her thanks to all the staff she had dealt with during her visit, Sue remarked on the openness everyone had shown in responding to her questions. She also repeated the view expressed in the earlier Matrix review that people clearly enjoy working at C&K Careers.

## MP visits Halifax Connexions Centre

The Shadow Home Secretary, Chris Grayling MP, visited Halifax Connexions Centre in January, to find out more about

how local Connexions Services support young people into employment, education and training. He was

shown the wide range of resources available at the Centre and was

able to talk to Connexions Personal Advisers based there. Staff explained how they provide individually tailored information, advice and guidance on the multitude of topics that affect young people's lives, including finance for study, benefit issues, homelessness, substance and alcohol misuse and health. Mr Grayling was particularly interested to hear how the PAs work closely with practitioners from other specialist services to ensure that young people are getting the right support package to meet their needs, so that they are able to take up positive opportunities to improve their lives.



# KIRKLEES



## What's happened?

- Zoe Smith and Judith Triner had a busy time at Greenhead College's extremely successful 'Employers' Fair' in February. A level students from Greenhead and Huddersfield New College, and their parents, were able to talk to the two advisers and to local and national employers and training providers about apprenticeships, employment and other alternatives to Higher Education. General feedback after the event was very positive, with employers and gap year organisations saying how impressed they were by the calibre of the students they dealt with.
- Careers4Adults adviser Karen Baxter informed visitors to two construction trade recruitment events about our services. People interested in painting and decorating and in bricklaying heard about the support available for those who were successful and the help they would get if they were not offered a place. Both events were staged by 'build', and were well attended by Kirklees residents.
- Personal advisers in various colleges and schools in Kirklees supported trials of the on-line procedure that is being introduced for students applying for a place in Higher Education.

## What's happening?

- Employment & Training advisers Claire Brook, Sarah Crosland and Michelle Morson regularly attend careers events and deal with enquiries from students about apprenticeships, CV writing and part time work. They also take part in COMPACT sessions in local schools, enabling students to experience how it feels to be interviewed. The feedback that they supply helps young people to perform better in real interview situations. Many of the students are nervous at first, but find the exercise extremely useful.

## Want to Learn?

– just CLiK!



CLiK, a website that gives information about courses for adults and where they can be found in Kirklees, has been set up by the Kirklees Neighbourhood Learning Partnership. Kirklees Council, Kirklees College, Calderdale & Kirklees Careers, community and voluntary organisations, schools, libraries, children's centres and many more local organisations that offer, or support, courses for adults in community venues in Kirklees have all contributed. Anyone who wants to begin or carry on



learning at Level 2 or below can log on to CLiK (Community Learning in Kirklees) at [www.kirkleesclik.org.uk](http://www.kirkleesclik.org.uk)

Clare Hobson and



Richard Dickinson



have been appointed to the two new Kirklees NEET PA posts, to work in Dewsbury and Huddersfield Centres respectively.

## Surprise!



Debbie Farnsworth, who works as a Centre PA in Huddersfield, was 'surprised but delighted' to be presented with a bouquet and gift marking 25 years of loyal and dedicated service.

In the first quarter of 2009,

- 3157 young people, 207 parents and 1660 other adults called into Dewsbury centre
- 4610 young people, 250 parents and 1434 other adults called into Huddersfield Centre

# CALDERDALE



## What's happening?

- Staff at Halifax Centre hope to identify voluntary places for young people over the summer, with organisations such as Square Chapel.

## What's happened?

- Halifax Centre PA Charlotte Walker has been talking about young people and the arts on Phoenix Radio, and has attended a Department of Culture, Media and Sport conference in Bradford.
- Sara Cookney has been developing guidance resources relating to the introduction of Diplomas, on behalf of Calderdale and Kirklees Collegiates. As part of the attempt to raise awareness of, and interest in, the Diplomas, Sara has been working in Holmfirth High, Brooksbank, Mirfield Free Grammar and Hipperholme & Lightcliffe High schools. She has produced leaflets aimed at year 9 students that give information about the picture locally, and about progression routes, in particular into HE. Sara has also piloted group work with Year 8 students. The leaflets will be made available on the Workabout website and in school & Centre libraries and linked to Area Wide Prospectuses. Meanwhile, Sara will continue to

provide a Connexions service at Crossley Heath School.

- The Halifax Courier contacted C&K recently, asking if we would like to promote our vacancies and apprenticeships. The Courier is trying to lessen the impact of the recession by showing that there are still job opportunities in Calderdale. Sarah Crosland, E&T Adviser for C&K Careers, put the information together, and this has now been submitted to the Courier for printing.

## Quality counts

The Quality Standards Award for Calderdale and Kirklees has been mapped against the recently-published National Standards for Young People's IAG and renamed 'Quality Standards for Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance in Calderdale and Kirklees.' The new standard examines 11 criteria against which schools and colleges are assessed to measure the effectiveness of the support they offer students.

According to Coordinator Dave Wood, "The revised standards provide a mechanism for us to support the two Councils and ensure that the National Standards are met across both. The assessment process has also been revised so that schools and colleges take greater ownership of their assessment."

Currently, 20 schools or colleges hold the local award and there has been strong interest from 11 others who want to go for assessment. "We are confident that the scheme we now have in place can help drive up the quality of CEIAG support offered to students locally. A working party has also been set up to develop a standard for local work-placed learning and training providers".



## Moving in

Susie Walker



has returned from maternity leave to join the Calderdale Education team.

## Moving on

Hazel Dowman and



Joel Robinson



have been appointed to the two Neet PA posts in Calderdale.

In the first quarter of 2009, 3569 young people, 167 parents and 776 other adults called into Halifax Centre

## C&K Training courses

To find out more, contact:



C&K Training has OCR Direct Claims status

T: 01484 226775

E: [info@cktraining.co.uk](mailto:info@cktraining.co.uk)

Or see [www.cktraining.co.uk](http://www.cktraining.co.uk)

Martin Bailes has been formally approved by Open College Network Yorkshire and Humber Region as an Approved Internal Verifier. This means that C&K Training (through Martin) can now accredit NOCN level 2 units internally for learners.

## Congratulations...

To the following, who have achieved NVQ units:

### **NVQ 3 Advice & Guidance**

Sarah Crosland - 4 units

Erica Ryden - 1 unit

Danielle Trujillo-Dean - 2 units

### **NVQ 4 Advice & Guidance**

Suzanne Smith - Full Award

Leanne Taylor - 3 units

### **NVQ 4 LDSS**

Mark Hunneybell - 1 unit

Charlotte Wood - 1 unit

## In demand

Careers4Adults has had a busy time recently, dealing with the increased demand caused by the economic situation. As well as visiting companies to give advice to redundant workers and running Career Boost Workshops to help people in Kirklees cope with career changes, advisers delivered over 830 initial and more than 380 follow up information, advice and guidance sessions in March alone.

## A Career in Pictures

A new way of delivering advice – using web technology – is being piloted by C&K Careers. Over the last few years, various new ways of delivering our services have been tried. Now we plan to provide an IAG service by web camera. The first will be in Birstall Library Information Point (LIC), with three more to follow by December. Enquirers will be able to talk to a qualified adviser and share documents such as CVs and ideas in text format, as well as visually. The project will also signpost people to the libraries' first level IT ('BITS') and similar courses and may be made available in schools, for when Personal Advisers aren't available.

## What can we say?

Not everyone who rings our telephone enquiry service, Learningline, asks about plumbing or child care. What would you say to someone who wants:

to train to deliver blood for the NHS?

to learn how to be an ebay trader?

to work with steam engines?

to design music speakers?

You can find the answer to these (and other) career enquiries by ringing:



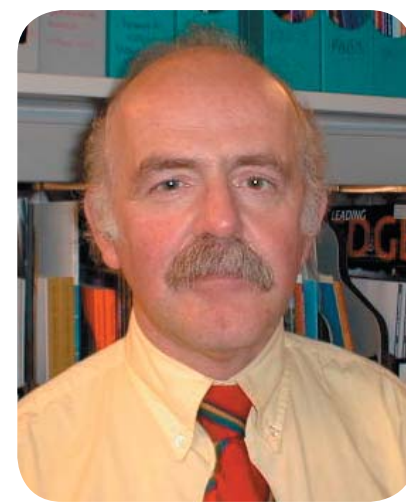
To text learningline; send 'learn' and a message to 0778 6202804

## Say 'Hello'...



Danielle Hirst has joined C&K Careers as an Apprentice Administrator

## ... Wave 'Goodbye'



Jeff Goodman, who has worked for the company since 1993 has retired. He began with the Adult Guidance team in Calderdale and more recently worked with the LDD team. We wish him well.

### **Recruitline**

Because of changes in the West Yorkshire Connexions network, local employers who want to contact Recruitline should no longer use the 0845 number. Leaflets and publicity are being amended to reflect the change.

If you want to employ a trainee or apprentice, contact (01484) 226750 or [recruitline@ckcareers.org.uk](mailto:recruitline@ckcareers.org.uk)

**allabout** is a quarterly newsletter from and about Calderdale & Kirklees Careers Ltd

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