

March 2003 – Issue 6

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Editor

Welcome to issue 6 of the London Connexions Newsletter produced for colleagues and key partners working in and with Connexions Partnerships in London. We welcome contributions and examples of good practice that we can share with others.

The Connexions Service continues to work with partner organisations to provide a universal advice, guidance and personal development service for young people. A full National Service will be available from April 2003.

Kelly Rowland meets young people in East London - Hackney Community College

On Friday 10th January the Hackney Community College and London East Connexions Partnership welcomed the hugely talented Kelly Rowland of Destiny's Child to the college's Shoreditch campus, for what turned out to be a truly inspiring event.

Kelly was in London to promote her new album and she agreed to take time out of her gruelling promotional schedule to travel over to Hackney and meet young people from the London East Connexions area. She was greeted by a rapturous crowd of nearly 300 young people at SPACe (Sports and Performing Arts Centre).



Kelly responding to Questions



with East London Youth Board



with young people...



with Personal Advisers

When asked how she managed to keep going and keep focused her reply was: "Believe in yourself – you know it would be so much easier to do something that's not right. But when you take the right path and the right road, you will see how so many other good things start coming to you. Learn to trust in 'yourself'. She explained why she had decided to visit Hackney and her reasons for wanting to make the connection with young people in London. "To talk to and to give back to young people is very important to me. I'd like to try to make a difference, to give some words of encouragement to inspire them, because people have done that for me in my life."

CONNEXIONS CARD UPDATE

A total of **28010 Connexions Cards** are currently in circulation across the London Partnership areas as follows:

Central	3102
East	9085
North	6591
South	4802
West	4430

There are **523 outlets offering discounts** in the London area as follows:

Central	149
East	74
North	83
South	132
West	85

Young people who have signed up to receive Connexions Card literature have been offered Amazon.co.uk vouchers worth £5 off any purchase, for only 10 points. These young people have also been sent a free copy of the new Connexions Card Magazine called "Shine".

CSNU are now moving the impetus from rolling out mass volumes of cards and focusing on the take up of rewards by young people.

Rewards that have been won across London include tours around the prestigious Tottenham Hotspur football stadium, spending the day with a make up artist, revision books and tickets to concerts.

A new free Connexion Card Mag

'SHINE' for young people – aims to encourage young people to think about their long term future, featuring articles about career opportunities, insight into various career industries, how celebrities made their way into business as well as stories from cardholders themselves. The magazine can be ordered from the stakeholder website: connexionscard.com/stakeholder or free phone 0808 172 4444.

South London Update:

Merton Youth Forum

Young people from across south London were given the chance to make their voices heard on issues affecting them at a 'Youth Forum' organised by Connexions South London. The event took place at City Limits, The Colonnades, Croydon.

The Youth Forum, a brand new programme designed to encourage young people to speak out, is the first of its kind in London. 13 to 19 year olds from schools, youth clubs and Connexions centres in south London came together for the event. Through various workshops young people were given the chance to share their views on a range of topics that affect their lives.

Richmond - Dispersed OneStopShop

A mobile service will be available in late March across two centres - Mortlake and Hampton. The centres are accessible places where young people can go for advice and support.

The set-up of the dispersed service is a co-ordinated approach to providing advice on a range of Connexions services to young people in the borough of Richmond. The project has been funded by Connexions, Drug and Alcohol Team and Community Safety Partnership. Some of the partners involved with making the project work are, Off the Record, Youth Cafe Project, Citizen Advice Bureau and the Council of Voluntary Youth Organisations.

Richmond - Youth Cafe Project

A double decker bus has been converted into a Cafe to provide information, advice, training and entertainment for young people. The bus and service will tour areas around Richmond where there is limited provision for young people. The bus will have space for computer facilities, counseling and advice, leisure activities and the provision of general information.

The project is funded mainly by Connexions South London and Rugby Union Football and London United, and includes partners such as Hampton and Hampton Hill Voluntary Care Group and Richmond Conference of Voluntary Youth Organisations

Youth Service Update:

The government has demonstrated its support for the Youth Service in the DfES document: Transforming Youth Work: Funding Excellent Youth Services. Ivan Lewis launched this booklet at a conference in December. It contains aspirational standards for youth provision developed by the National Youth Agency. Youth Services are now embedding these standards into their provision through their Youth Plans.

Guidance for the Transforming Youth Work Development Fund is due around now, and this will give some additional funding to Youth Services so long as their budgets have not been reduced from previous levels. The fund supports training and development, as well as links with the voluntary sector. The geographical teams at GOL will be in touch with Principal Youth Officers about deadlines and the arrangements for signing off the plans

There is broad agreement on the need for a Youth Service Unit for London to enable a shared approach to training, development and quality issues, and to support cross-boundary planning. The London APYCO group has agreed an initial paper, and is now working on a timescale for an initial appointment to take the Unit forward.

There is clear evidence of Youth Services and local Connexions managers working closely and effectively, and GO hopes to support this at Chief Executive level through a series of meetings in April and May.

Positive Activities Young People

Connexions Partnerships are drawing up plans for the Positive Activities For Young People programme. Chosen by GOL as the lead delivery agent, the Partnerships are required to work with Youth Offending Teams, local authorities, the youth service and voluntary organisations. They will support young people aged 8-19 at risk. Young people will be able to participate in positive activities during the school holidays, access out of school activities throughout the year and be supported to engage in learning and/or employment. There will be key worker support for those most at risk. Last year, similar programmes were provided through Summer Plus, Splash, Splash Extra and the Community Cohesion programmes, but this year departments and agencies across Government have pooled resources to provide a coherent programme.

The programmes last year had a positive impact on young people, with demonstrable success in reducing crime. For example, the total number of young people brought to the attention of Youth Offending Teams for robbery in Summer Plus areas declined by 9% compared to the previous quarter. In non Summer Plus areas the number increased by 10%.

At GOL the main point of contact for connexions partnerships is their Geographical team, with Sandra Marcantonio providing central support.

PA Line Managers Training Day

In conjunction with all the London P/ships, Government Office for London hosted two one day training events at DFES.

The main purpose of these events was to provide training and information for Line Managers of Personal Advisors. As PAs are placed in a variety of organisations their Line Managers often have little or no idea of the training they are undertaking and of how they can support them.

- *'The sharing of experience and work practise was very useful'.*
- *'It was very useful to look at the different modules and discuss them with professionals from a number of agencies'*
- *'Good group feedback on supporting student Personal Advisors and understanding how Personal Advisors should manage to study and to work'.*
- *'The event should be compulsory for all Line Managers'*

Generally the participants found that the sharing of information through group discussion had been one of the major benefits of the day.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 27 May 2003, 11am – 4pm: Millennium Volunteers Awareness Day for Connexions Partnerships. The venue will be, The Government Office for London, Riverwalk House, 157-161 Millbank, London SW1P 4RR.

Contact: Sandra Marcantonio - e-mail: smarcantonio.gol@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk, Tel: 0207 217-3114.

Friday 4 April 2003 - Positive Activities for Young People – a conference for Connexions Partnerships (the lead delivery agents) and their Local Authority & Youth Offending Team partners. A conference to support initial planning. **Contact:** Sandra Marcantonio - e-mail: smarcantonio.gol@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk, Tel: 0207 217 –3114.

PUBLICATIONS

CONNEXIONS BOOKLETS FOR SCHOOLS

Which Way Now ? - A 32 page workbook which leads Year 9 students through all stages of making their options choices at age 14.

It's Your Choice - A 38 page workbook for year 10&11 students. It provides educational and careers guidance for students facing decisions about whether to embark on future education or move into the world of training and work, and it also outlines the full range of options open to them.

Jobfile - A 48 page booklet which contains a description of approximately 100 different jobs and their entry qualifications.

Personal Advisers linked to schools should remind schools that copies are available and can be ordered free of charge from DfES Publications, Tel 0845 602 2260 and also through the connexions website:

www.connexions.gov.uk/careerspublications

Action /information
NOTES & BULLETINS
For Connexions Partnerships

- ◆ **Partnership Information Note CXP70 (21/1/2003)** 14-19 Opportunity & Excellence Briefing Pack – Advice & Support. Lines to take and Q&A on the 14-19 proposals
- ◆ **Partnership Information Note CXP71 (3/2/2003)**. The Role of the Connexions Service National Unit & Government Offices in delivering Connexions
- ◆ **Partnership Action Note CXP 72 (4/2/2003)** Guidance on setting and monitoring Connexions targets in 2003-04
- Partnerships to have Planning Tables completed and agreed with GO by 31 March 2003.
- ◆ **Partnership Information Note CXP 73 (6/2/2003)** Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP). Guidance on key requirements for GOs and LDAs to deliver PAYP.
- ◆ **Partnership Information Note CXP 74 (11/2/2003)** Performance Management. Partnership that started before June 2002 to complete Self Assessment by 15 March 2003. Partnerships operating from September 2002 to demonstrate that they are preparing to undertake the self-assessment in run up the business planning for 2004-05.
- ◆ **Partnership Information Note CXP 75 (13/2/2003)** Aide Memoire on Developing a Strategy for the Active Involvement of Young People in Connexions.

- ◆ **Partnership Action Note CXP 76 (19/2/2003)** Sharing contact information on Voluntary & Community Sector Engagement Co-ordinators.
- ◆ **Partnership Action Note CXP 77 (25/2/2003)** Connexions Funding Formula Review - Partnership Consultation. Partnership to complete and return questionnaire to CSNU by 28/3/03
- ◆ **Partnership Action Note CXP 78 (27/2/2003)** Request for Information on Careers Advice & Support in KS3 & KS4, Identification of Careers/Real Game Coordinators.
- ◆ **Partnership Action Note CXP79 (3/3/2003)** Business Management Relationship Framework. Comments to CSNU by 24/3/02.
- ◆ **Partnership Action Note CXP80 (18/3/2003)** Stock take of Voluntary & Community Sector involvement in Connexions – 2002/03. Partnerships to complete spreadsheets and forward to CSNU by 30 April 2003
- ◆ **Partnership Information Bulletin- Multi Bulletin numbers 15 to 21 were issued between 17 January and 7 March 2003.**

The London Connexions Newsletter is produced by the Connexions Unit in Government Office for London, Riverwalk House, 157-161 Millbank SW1P 4RR. We welcome all comments and contributions. Please write to Sam Manners or e-mail smanners.gol@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk