

SECTION 11.0: CAREERS ADVICE

Connexions Herefordshire and Worcestershire offers a wide range of help for 13-19 year olds, including information and advice on career planning and assistance with finding suitable employment and training. Within this overall service, there is a focus on those who need it most.

Connexions is funded by central government and works collaboratively with a number of organisations. Worcestershire County Council is one of the local partners. The service to young people is provided by Personal Advisers who are all professionally trained.

Personal Advisers are linked with and work in every secondary school in the county. They liaise with school careers co-ordinators and other staff to plan careers education, offer careers information and advice and provide individual support, where appropriate. Connexions produces a series of booklets, for pupils from year 9 onwards, to help them with learning and career choices. Pupils can also request individual advice sessions with their Personal Adviser. More in-depth support is available to those with particular needs.

Personal Advisers attend parents' evenings from year 9 onwards and parents/carers are welcome to talk to them about their child's career plans. Connexions produces and sends parents/carers Newsletters which cover topics such as post-16 education and training options and sources of further information.

There are full-time Connexions centres in Worcester, Evesham, Redditch, Bromsgrove and Kidderminster and part-time centres in Droitwich, Pershore and Malvern. Addresses and telephone numbers can be found under "Connexions Service" in the telephone directory. There are careers libraries in all the full-time Connexions centres, which contain information on over 500 occupations, HE and FE courses, grants, sponsorships, training opportunities and leisure, cultural and volunteering activities. Parents/carers may use these facilities at any time during normal office hours.

Information, advice and support continue to be available to young people, from Connexions, after they have left full-time education, up to the age of 19.

