



The best start in life for every young person

## Action Note

Ref No: CX 223  
Date: March 2007

### Young People's Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)

#### For the attention of:

Leaders and managers of organisations planning the delivery of services funded by the current Connexions grant from April 2008.

#### Action to be taken

To note the attached guidance which outlines the circumstances under which schools and colleges may opt out of existing local information, advice and guidance arrangements from April 2008. This is restricted to where existing provision is poor and this can be properly evidenced.

The document also makes clear that the accountability for a high quality IAG service in any local authority area remains that of the LA and looks at maintaining high quality IAG services in different delivery settings.

#### Background

Youth Matters proposed that by April 2008, we would devolve responsibility for commissioning IAG and the funding that goes with it, from Connexions to local authorities working through children's trusts, schools and colleges. Youth Matters also said that, where schools and colleges believed existing provision was poor, they would have the right to opt out and commission services directly. We expect that most will remain within local arrangements and work in partnership to continue to deliver high quality IAG with minimum disruption to service delivery.

Guidance on the opt out process and maintaining high quality IAG services from April 2008 is now attached. The guidance:

- sets out the key policy;
- provides an indicative timetable for the “opt out” process (Annex A);
- provides an indicative process flow chart for the “opt out” process (Annex B);
- provides a definition of IAG activities (Annex C).

## **GO Assessment**

During 2007-08 we are expecting GOs, in their work with each local authority, to review the plans for IAG commissioning in their respective areas from April 2008, including the level of proposed opt outs. This is to ensure the total service being offered is comprehensive, provides value for money and is likely to deliver good quality, impartial IAG for young people. GOs will also have a strategic role, alongside the LA, in the approval of any opt outs, linked to the 14-19 Diploma Gateway process. GOs should report the position to SCYPG via the quarterly Transition Planning Healthcheck (TPH) published at the end of February 2007.

## **Positive Impact on Young People**

The guidance on the opt out process and maintaining high quality IAG services from April 2008, underpinned by the new IAG quality standards, will ensure that local authorities are able to maintain the quality and availability of services to young people.

## **Clearance**

Government Office, Connexions partnership, local authority and DfES policy representatives have been consulted in developing the IAG “opt out” guidance. This note has been cleared by Mohammad Haroon, Deputy Director, SCYPG.

## **Contact**

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## **Feedback**

*We would appreciate your feedback and comments on the usefulness of this note. Comments should be sent via email to [connexions.actionnotes@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:connexions.actionnotes@dfes.gsi.gov.uk). Please include the reference number and title of the note in the subject box of your email. Thank you.*