

## Careers and advancement advice and guidance including Nextstep

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**Advancement networks** will be the way in which core careers advisory services connect to the full range of other services that provide advice for adults on a diverse range of needs – from employment rights to the availability of childcare. The aim will be to ensure “no wrong door” access to advice on skills and careers, in a way which packages that advice with other key advice that an individual may need to tackle their personal barriers to learning and progression in work. There are many different ways in which networks could be effectively and efficiently designed and delivered. It is important that ways of achieving this join-up are tested now, to give us the best chance of building a sustainable national approach as part of the full service which can be operational from autumn 2010. There is £2million available nationally to test advancement network prototypes in the North West, West Midlands, London and South East. Ten pilots will be funded, six of which are expected to be in IES trial areas and four in non IES areas.

### **New Nextstep (Careers information advice and guidance) contract**

1. The Next Step contract for 2008-2010 has been awarded to Careers Enterprise (previously known as VT) in the South East.
2. Careers Enterprise are the prime contractor for the region with responsibilities as follows:
  - managing and co-ordinating services across the regional delivery infrastructure;
  - managing all sub-contracted delivery;
  - ensuring delivery of the contracted volumes, outputs and impact measures;
  - ensuring quality and workforce competency;
  - building strong relationships with strategic partners (e.g. JCP+, offender learning, young peoples' IAG)
3. The new contract has two elements:
  - **Universal** access to services via national telephone & regional telephone access points, national and regional web-based services and regional and local access to face-to-face services
  - An in-depth **differentiated and personalised** face-to-face service for priority groups (those without a full Level 2 or Level 3 qualification)

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