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Leading learning and skills

Connexions Cornwall and Devon Ltd

Press Release

2 July 2008

Connexions Cornwall and Devon wins major regional contract

One of the region's leading companies has been successful in securing a government contract to deliver information, advice and guidance to adults across the whole of the South West.

Connexions Cornwall and Devon Ltd has just announced its success in winning the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) contract to deliver the South West's nextstep service - a careers, information and advice service to help people engage and progress in learning and work.

This is a major step forward for the company which has been more commonly known for delivering the Connexions information, advice and guidance service to 13-19 year olds in Cornwall and Devon.

Connexions Chief Executive, Jenny Rudge, said: "This is excellent news for us and is another step in our ambitions to be the market leader in providing valuable help and guidance for people to assist them in making the very most of their talents so they can have rewarding and fulfilling working lives.

"We have been successfully delivering the nextstep service for adults in the west of the region for some time now, and we are excited about the opportunity to become a regional company."

Nextstep offers a careers, information and advice service to anyone aged 20 and over: it also offers a more in depth service to people with low skill levels or who need

extra support. The service, which will start from 1 August this year, will be available at many locations around the South West.

Paul Lucken, Regional Director of Skills at the LSC, said: "This is an extremely important contract and for the next two years it will be the forerunner to the establishment of an adult advancement and careers service, which is a crucial component of the government's strategy for driving forward a significant improvement in skill levels in this country. Global competition has never been so challenging and our future prosperity depends on developing a highly skilled and responsive workforce."

John Tempest, Skills Development Director (Skills for Life), said: "We are very pleased that Connexions Cornwall and Devon Ltd has been successful in winning this contract as they have a great reputation for quality customer service. We have started working with them already and are excited by the possibilities. I have no doubts whatsoever that first class and relevant information, advice and guidance is fundamental in helping people develop the right skills to enhance their chances of gaining, keeping and progressing in good and satisfying jobs".

The service will be managed and led by Connexions Cornwall and Devon Ltd but will be delivered in partnership with Connexions West of England and many other organisations, to provide the widest range possible of specialist advice and knowledge of local and wider labour markets. JobCentre Plus will also be a key partner in ensuring that services are easily available to people who are out of work.

For more information please contact Lou Mason, head of service, on 01566 771133.

Ends

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Notes to editors:

nextstep Cornwall, Devon and Somerset is funded by the LSC and is managed by Connexions Cornwall and Devon Ltd.

As part of the Skills Strategy White Paper - 21st Century Skills the Government believe it is vital for our future prosperity that everyone should have access to

information about learning and work which is up-to-date, easy to understand and easily accessible.

For more information visit www.nextstep-cds.org.uk the local website, or www.nextstep.org.uk the national website.

Connexions Cornwall and Devon Ltd is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and vulnerable adults and expects all employees and volunteers to share this commitment.

Connexions Cornwall and Devon Ltd is a wholly owned and controlled company of the local authorities of Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay and delivers contracts to provide information, advice and guidance to young people and persons of all ages. The company is committed to the provision of independent information, advice and guidance to help individuals engage in learning and work.

For more information visit www.connexions-cd.org.uk the local website or www.connexions.gov.uk the national website.

LSC

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world-class standards. Our vision is that by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country. For more information visit: <http://www.lsc.gov.uk/westofengland>

The LSC has awarded contracts to deliver the new nextstep service in England to 10 organisations and forms part of the development of the new adult advancement and careers service. The new nextstep service offers a universal advice service for all adults aged 20+ and offers a range of personalised services to those with the most need. The new contracts will run from 1 August 2008 until 31 July 2010. The LSC is working with existing contractors to make sure that the service to adults is uninterrupted and continues to operate efficiently during the transition.

- East of England – Suffolk County Council
- East Midlands – Guideline Careers Services
- Greater London – Prospects Services
- North East – CfBT
- North West – GMCP
- Greater Manchester – Economic Solutions
- South East – Careers Enterprise
- South West – Connexions Cornwall and Devon
- West Midlands – CSWP
- Yorkshire & Humberside – Careers West Yorkshire