
THE CAREER LEARNING CAFÉ

ideas for useful action on careers work, Connexions, education for citizenship and life-long learning

Twenty-first-century careers work must develop deeper and more dynamic ideas for action. It is increasingly attracting policy interest. It is making links - through Connexions, citizenship and life-long learning - which offer unprecedented opportunities. Exciting times!

Careers workers now work with a wider network of partners. The partners must be supported at different levels of engagement and in all kinds of formal and informal settings. Demanding times!

The Career-Learning Café is a learning website for advisers, teachers, lecturers and their partners in careers work and citizenship. It offers leading-edge ideas - relevant to today.

Looking around the café

There are four main areas:

- (1) **the magazine** - interweaving contemporary issues, practical responses, key ideas, real-life stories and interactive learning;
- (2) **the underpinning** probes deeper, linking issues to fully-referenced articles and monographs;
- (3) **the memory** is the archive, a chance to re-examine classic material, all linked to today's realities;
- (4) **moving on** pointing to how we must develop the work and how the café will help.

There is no entry charge to the café, and all activities and downloads are free.

Deeper and wider concepts

We cannot escape a rethink on the way we help people in their learning for contemporary living. Indeed, we must help them to see how what they do about career links to all aspects of their stake in society. New programmes, like those in Connexions, increasingly respond with a networking approach, enlisting people from outside the traditional providers of guidance. It all raises big issues for local management.

A useful development here is 'Game for career'. It compacts key ideas into an interactive diagnosis of contemporary career-learning needs. It can be used on-line with learners - leading to a diagnosis of what kinds of help different prior experience calls for.

But it is supported by ready-to-download material, setting out the underlying thinking. This means that careers workers, with their colleagues and partners, can use the game to develop more imaginative ways to respond to learners' needs.

Research and development

The underpinning area of the café is a collection of accounts of useful research-based thinking. A particularly important part of this will be research into styles for managing 'networking' careers work. Such networking is necessary to the effective local support of Connexions.

The relationship between research and development is critical to our future. It is rarely possible to report any research in terms which transfer simply into policy or practice. A priority in the café is to ensure that reports are framed in terms which - taking one thing with another - lead to useful ideas for action.

As far as your commitment and imagination allow

You'll find, on the site, an explanation of the café's philosophy and design. It is to give voice to views which show why and how careers work must - and can - move on. The ideas must be independent, well-founded and forward-looking. The action must be local, relevant and effective.

In all of this, the Career-learning Café offers a range of learning journeys, signposted by interactive links. You move through them in your own order and at your own pace. You start where you choose, and work through what your work requires - as far as your imagination and commitment will take you.

You can be updated on future developments in the café by e-mailing the word 'yes!' to the address below.

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