

Newsletter

May 2009

www.nisca.org.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND SCHOOLS & COLLEGES CAREERS ASSOCIATION

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

To Noelle McAshea of Holy Trinity School in Cookstown who was the winner of the draw for a weekend at the Hilton Hotel!!!

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NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY

The annual NISCA Conference will take place this year on Friday 27th November 2009 in the La Mon Hotel & Country Club, Castlereagh, Belfast. This is a new venue for us and we are indeed looking forward. La Mon offers one of the largest state of the art Conferencing & Events suites in Northern Ireland. Further information on the venue, including directions, can be accessed through their website: www.lamon.co.uk

The Conference Committee, guided by the delegate comments from last year's Evaluation Forms, is already involved in the planning, organisation and content of this event which has, as a working title, 'Careers in the New Decade' It is intended that further details will be in schools by the end of June.

Message from our President Mr J Lockett OBE

The world of employment has been transformed by the implications of the credit crunch. We are all having to face new realities but one thing that has emerged from the turmoil is the continuing, and indeed enhanced, need for good Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG).

It is worth remembering that for those sixteen year old students following the university route, we are dealing with young people who may not enter the workplace for another 5+ years and hopefully the economic crisis will be history by

then!

Training and top class education are the best chance for our young people to meet the challenges of the new world order but it requires Careers Teachers to point the way forward for them.

We all know the importance of NISCA in ensuring the best training for those delivering careers education and I am delighted to hear of our plans to meet the challenges of the new Government initiatives relating to modern apprenticeships, the joint DEL/DE strategy document on CEIAG and the introduction of

Quality Indicators for CEIAG.

It promises to be an eventful few months and our NISCA Autumn Conference should be well timed to prepare you for the forthcoming changes.

We look forward to



Preparing For Success?

February 2009 saw the long awaited joint launch of Northern Ireland's CEIAG Strategy from the Department of Education (DENI) and the Department of Employment and Learning (DEL). After a very protracted consultation period, "Preparing For Success" was published and distributed to all learning providers and CEIAG stakeholders in Northern Ireland. On 27th

March the accompanying Quality Indicators from the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) were made available online. This is a timely move from DEL/DENI and the ETI to emphasise the importance of effective CEIAG and move the spotlight back onto careers practitioners in N.I. What do these lengthy documents mean for careers teachers in N.I.?

What are the most salient points to garner from the Strategy?

One of the main aims of this Strategy is to bring much needed consistency to a vital educational area in N.I. - if each learning provider takes the recommendations in these documents seriously and implements the necessary changes over time then



Sound advice came from one ELB adviser from the SELB, "Don't panic! Do an audit of current CEIAG provision in your school in conjunction with your careers team or SMT. Identify areas for improvement and compile an action plan, detailing steps to be taken for the next five years."

Preparing for Success (continued)

young people in N.I will all have equal and fair access to advice and guidance and follow a very similar careers education programme from the age of 4. The overall Strategy also underlines and reiterates that careers practitioners need support and resources from their school or college in order to begin fulfilling their roles and the criteria set out. Although there does not appear to be any extra funding available to implement recommendations there are clear messages to Leaders and Managers within education in all three documents that sufficient resources will be required to meet new national

standards in CEIAG.

There are over one hundred pages from these documents combined. There are recommendations and there are requirements. It may feel alarming initially to have such a Strategy published but the message is clear: this is a five year phase-in period. There is support available from the ETI and there is help on hand from your ELB advisor. Many Area Learning Communities are also providing CEIAG sub groups which can be forums for professional development and sharing best practice.

Further information

regarding this issue can be found at www.nisca.org.uk

Cathy Moore

NISCA SPRING EVENT

Thank-you to all who expressed an interest in attending our proposed NISCA Spring Event; we were pleased with the good number of positive responses but the total fell short of that required to make the event viable.

NISCA now plan to acknowledge the contribution of past

UCAS NISG

NISCA has two representatives on the Northern Ireland Standing Group for UCAS and we welcome any issues that you may wish to raise. The committee meets twice a year (November and June) and all minutes and papers that are distributed are available on the NISCA website. Please email your issue to

The Employability Challenge Report

The remit of the UK Commission is to provide vigorous and independent challenge, advising government at the highest levels across the UK on employment and skills strategy, targets, policies and progress towards the challenging competitiveness goals set by Lord Leitch, including the vision of an 80% employment rate by 2020. It has already been asked by

the government to report on crucial issues, such as the employability skills employers need for future economic success, how UK employers can use skills to become more globally competitive, and whether further institutional change is required to deliver better integrated employment and skills services. On 10 February, UKCES launched *The Employability*

Challenge report in response to employers' concerns, about why, after years of discussion about and definitions of employability skills, far too few candidates for recruitment have these skills. The full report can be found at www.ukces.org.uk/Default.aspx?page=5.

Fiona McAuley

Sector Skills Council Working for Careers Teachers!!!

Sector Skills Councils (SSC's) are the "voice" of their sector's employers on skills issues. As part of its work, each SSC produces a wealth of intelligence on jobs, skills and employment trends for their sector - vital information that you can use. Each website has its own tools and guidance for careers teachers and these sites can be invaluable when starting or updating a careers library. There are 25 SSC's in all, represented by

the Alliance of SSC's, established in April 2008 to act as the collective voice of SSC's. The Alliance of SSC's are based in Alfred Street in Belfast and will be promoting the work of all the SSC's in the coming future.

Most of the SSC's now have representation in Northern Ireland and are keen to engage with careers teachers. You may already have heard of E-Skills or Construction Skills as they

are currently very proactive in N.I. and have provided workshops and I have also contacted E-Skills to help students find employers for work experience and found them very helpful.

NISCA intends to forge links with these SSC's to provide information and training for the careers teachers in N.I. We have already worked with E-Skills for our November 2008 annual conference. Further

can be found on the NISCA website or more information can be accessed at <http://www.sectorcareersinfo.co.uk/>



Cathy Moore