

CONFIDENT CHOICES



JANUARY 2021

NEWSLETTER

SPECIALIST CLUSTERS ESTABLISHED

A significant ambition of Confident Choices has been to ensure that non-mainstream schools are covered by the framework. We have invited specialist schools – both SEND and AP – to attend their mainstream geographical cluster meetings and to participate in specialist clusters. The latter will be forums where the careers leaders will be able to discuss the particular challenges facing their settings.

Scott Eley at Lincolnshire County Council has been working with many of the county's Special Schools on an employment project and this group is forming the core of a Confident Choices Special School cluster. To support these schools there will be a conference about careers support for SEND students on Tuesday March 9th. This will also be open to SEND and careers staff from mainstream schools. We will be advertising it soon, but further details will be available by 1st February from Emily Wilson, the Confident Choices administrator.

Alternative Providers also face significant challenges in supporting their students into further education and employment. The first cluster meeting of this group met on 14th January and discussed how collaboration can make a difference to the work in these settings.

WEBSITE IS A GREAT SUCCESS

The Confident Choices website has attracted significant interest since it went live. We are keen to develop it to meet careers leaders' needs; whilst we believe strongly that we should not seek to duplicate what is available elsewhere, we will add links and any unique content of use – let us know what would be useful.

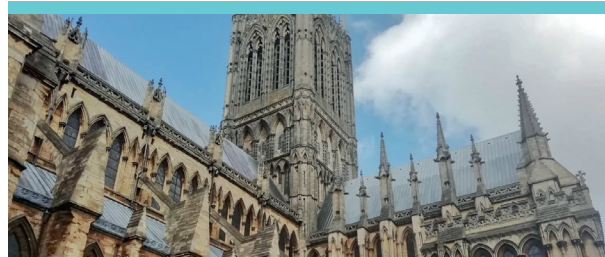
205

TOTAL SITE
SESSIONS

127

UNIQUE
VISITORS

AVERAGE SESSION TIME
SUGGESTS THAT USERS ARE
ENGAGING WITH THE CONTENT



WELCOME

As we enter a second partial school closure, as examinations are cancelled and employment prospects are more challenging, careers information, advice and guidance have never been more important. Collaboration to support them has never been more relevant. Confident Choices was established out of a belief that collaborative working would support the vital delivery of careers in schools and colleges in Lincolnshire. Our ambition is not only to respond to current pressures, but also to establish a sustainable framework that allows institutions and their partners to work together efficiently and coherently.

We are grateful for the hard work of many people who have helped develop our vision, framework and resources alongside meeting their own professional challenges in these difficult times. We are also grateful for the responses to our consultations. Keep letting us know what would help you most.

CONTACTS

Project Leadership **Richard Hughes**
hughes.richardb62@gmail.com

Strategic Leadership **Andy Chisholm**
achisholm@lincstsa.co.uk

Admin **Emily Wilson**
ewilson@prioryacademies.co.uk

CPD WEBINAR SERIES COMPLETE

The complete summer and autumn CPD webinar series are now available through the Confident Choices website. In total, there are twenty presentations on a wide range of topics. They are still very relevant. Please take a look.



LINC HIGHER, COLLABORATION AND THE UNICONNECT CONSULTATION

Confident Choices has worked because of the commitment of involved schools and partners to collaboration. Key partners are now the LEP Enterprise Coordinator team (Enterprise Adviser Network), the DWP Schools' Advisers, STEM Learning and LincHigher/UniConnect.

We have been very grateful for the active support of the LincHigher officers, who have been positive in their understanding of cluster working and who have helped plan and deliver joint events even before the clusters existed. It would be good if we Confident Choices schools could support them, by contributing to the OfS UniConnect consultation and emphasise the benefits of the programme and of collaboration. The consultation closes on Tuesday 19th January, so you will need to be quick.

The consultation can be found here:

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/consultation-on-new-approach-to-uni-connect/>

STUDENT RESOURCES PROJECT

In the last update, we said we were looking to produce a series of resources that integrate student friendly LMI resources with insights into employment sectors significant in Lincolnshire. These are intended to exemplify the materials available to illustrate the range of great opportunities in Lincolnshire. We know it is particularly important at the moment to encourage young people to be positive and informed in their job searches and career planning.

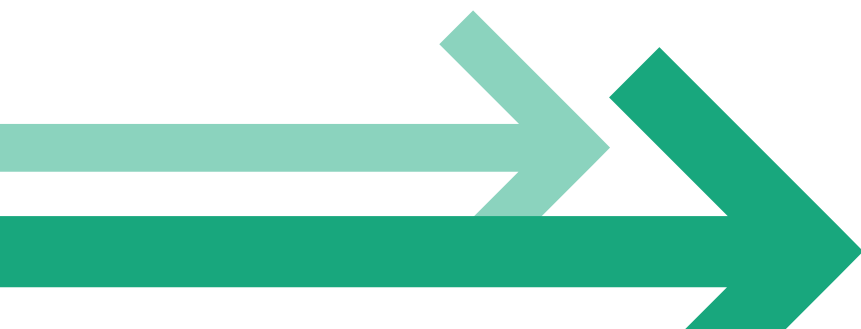
The pressures caused by the pandemic have slowed progress a little, but we are optimistic that we will soon have some exemplar resources to share for feedback. This, after all, was a project suggested by schools and we want to make sure that the resources are useful.

To complete the project, it will need to be truly collaborative. LincHigher, the Enterprise Coordinator team, the DWP schools' advisers and STEM learning are all contributing expertise and signposting resources, whilst key careers leaders are doing the planning itself. Our aim is to have something for schools to critique this term. Once the template is clear, we will be seeking other careers leaders to write a session that we can incorporate into the final package.



CONFIDENT CHOICES CALENDAR

- 14th January 2-3pm – AP Specialist Cluster Meeting
- 1st February 9-10am – Lead Schools' Meeting
- 12th February 10.30-12 noon – Steering Group Meeting
- 9th March – SEND Careers Conference
- Other cluster meetings advised separately*



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