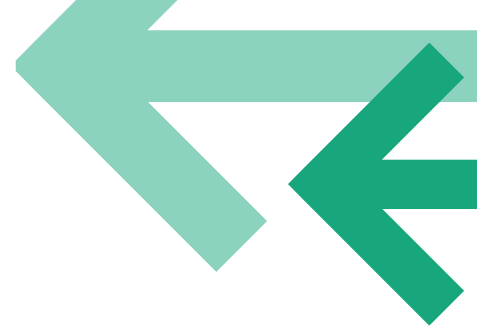


# CONFIDENT CHOICES



**JULY 2021**

# NEWSLETTER

## CONFERENCES PROVIDE KEY SUPPORT

This year, despite the challenges of the pandemic, Confident Choices has expanded into support for Special Schools, Alternative Providers and begun to offer ideas and suggestions to Primary colleagues. It has been a privilege to see the great work already being done in these sectors and to hear what can be done to help careers related learning develop further in these areas.

### SEND CONFERENCE

In March, 30 people attended the SEND conference, jointly organised by Confident Choices and Scott Eley of the Lincolnshire County Council Supported Employment Project.

The quality of the presentations was uniformly high. Topics covered varied from national update to how to engage parents, with programme planning and organising work experience covered in between. The focus was on the learner and their potential, with inspirational case studies and practical ideas interwoven. One delegate commented that 'I really enjoyed every aspect, and it was great to attend a careers conference aimed solely at pupils with additional needs.'

Presentations were given by Jenny Connick from Talentino, John Ambrose from Complete Careers and from Catcote Academy, The Lighthouse School and The Castle School. All the presentations and slides are available on the Confident Choices website Resources page.

### PRIMARY CONFERENCE

In June, we ran a Primary conference, focusing on the importance of introducing careers related learning into children's school experience from as early an age as possible. Evidence for this was quoted from the publications Drawing the Future, More than a Job's Worth and What Works. Again, it was wonderful to hear about how this imperative was leading to new national support and to some excellent practice on the ground.

We were grateful to John Ambrose (again), who spoke about the work of the Careers Development Institute (CDI) in developing a new careers framework for Early Years through to Key Stage 2. Rachel Mackenzie and colleagues from Greenwood Academies Trust and Zoe Mawson, the Headteacher at Beckfoot Heaton Primary School spoke compellingly about the practice in their schools. Theresa Peacock from Monks Abbey School in Lincoln also shared what her school was doing and showed us what we already knew - that good practice exists in Lincolnshire and now needs to be shared.

### References

Drawing the Future, Education and Employers, 2018  
More than a Job's Worth, Founders for Schools, 2019  
What Works, Careers and Enterprise Company



## WELCOME

**Confident Choices has always been school directed - a key part of its success. The ability of school colleagues to manage the day job during the pressures of a pandemic and yet to remain committed to collaboration has been nothing short of remarkable. The Confident Choices network has remained strong. This will sustain it into the future.**

This is likely to be the penultimate Confident Choices newsletter as the central support for the project is reduced and the emphasis on school-to-school support is increased. This is consistent with our original aims and with the way Confident Choices has developed. The school-based network will be supported by the continuing, and enhanced, support from our organisational partners. We will keep you informed.

## CONTACTS

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# CLUSTER DEVELOPMENTS

We have been delighted with the development of our Special School and Alternative Provider clusters. They will be a growing source for schools to access good ideas and resource recommendations. The AP cluster meets again on 23rd September and will be facilitated by Richard Hughes. If you are interested in finding out more about the SEND Cluster, contact Scott Eley.

Mainstream clusters have, in the main, adapted well to the constraints imposed by the pandemic and have continued meeting remotely and effectively. A decision has been made to split the East Lindsey cluster – the largest cluster – and schools in that area now have the option of joining the Boston cluster (contact Elaine Dutton at Haven High Academy) or the West Lindsey cluster (contact Dan Willars at De Aston School).

# STUDENT RESOURCES PROJECT UPDATE

We are excited that this is now on the website and available to help thinking and planning. Driven by a desire to showcase the information available about Lincolnshire job opportunities and how these can be used in school careers sessions, we have now created exemplar plans linked to a wealth of local and regional resources, as well as some national ones particularly relevant to Lincolnshire's key sectors. Go to the Confident Choices website and hover over Resources on the menu bar to find the link.

We are grateful to the many people who have helped with this project, but particularly to Elaine Dutton, Tracey Taylor and Dan Willars, Careers Leaders all, who have been under significant pressure in school over the last year and yet have found time to create resources for us.

As with many other projects, this has been delayed by the pandemic and a few session examples are still missing. We encourage you to return in the future as we will be adding to, and updating, the page.



# THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CONFIDENT CHOICES

Confident Choices has been funded in money and kind by The Careers and Enterprise Company, LincHigher and, particularly, by Lincolnshire County Council. They all deserve thanks and credit. The project was always intended to establish a sustainable school-to-school support model. We think we have done that. But we also recognise that there are some things that are challenging for school-based colleagues to achieve. The additional central support will finish at the end of 2021, although the Confident Choices website will continue to provide a location for the significant resources we have created. We are having conversations about how to ensure all that has been helpful about Confident Choices is not lost. If you wish to contribute, contact Richard Hughes or Andy Chisholm.



# CONFIDENT CHOICES CALENDAR

13th September – Lead Schools Meeting 9am

20th September – SEND Careers Policy Clinic 10am

23rd September – AP Cluster Meeting 2pm

