

Ref: US/TH/Employ Chall Conf/Ltr to Schools

26 September 2011

Dear Leadership Staff, Career Education Co-ordinators, WRL & Enterprise Co-ordinators, Career Advisers and PSHE Staff.

**The Employability Challenge Conference
Thursday 12 January 2012
Chilworth Manor Hotel**

Educationalists are amid a period of dramatic change affecting careers, work-related learning, enterprise and vocational education. Portsmouth and SE Hants EBP is delighted to offer you the opportunity to take part in a regional conference, designed and delivered by Gary Forrest and Sue Barr, national experts in the fields of work-related learning, careers education & IAG, enterprise and employer engagement.

Their combined knowledge of these aspects of the curriculum is unparalleled. Over recent years they have had significant involvement in legislative and funding programmes of the Education Department and of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS).

This event will be structured around understanding the policy landscape and meeting the employability challenge via leadership, curriculum, employer and partnership challenges. It will offer insight into current Government policy including rationale, principles and likely implications impacting on young people's employability.

EBP is offering this opportunity in association with Solent EBP and we anticipate that places will be taken up quickly. We strongly recommend schools and colleges send Senior Leadership Team members and representatives who have responsibility for Careers Education, WRL and Enterprise and PSHE.

The Conference Programme is also enclosed and bookings must be made by Friday 16 December 2011. Please see the attached flyer for conference details and the booking form.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Tina Hennessy on 023 9228 3446 or thennessy@portsmouthebp.co.uk. Booking confirmation and venue details will be sent out after the closing date.

Yours sincerely



Tina Hennessy
Operations Manager

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Conference Programme

- 9.30** **Arrival**
- 9.45** **Welcome & Introduction**
- 10.00** **What do we mean by employability?**
Overview and structure of the day
- 10.15** **Understanding the policy landscape - Government rationale and principles**
- Careers education and IAG
 - Work-related and vocational education, enterprise and employer engagement
 - Discussion of the implications for schools, colleges, support organisations and employers
- Meeting the employability challenge: develop an effective strategy**
- 11.30** **The leadership challenge**
- Whole organisation approach, policies, culture and ethos, staffing and resourcing, evaluation and improvement
 - Frame for development - review of progress to date, strategy for next steps and action plan
- 12.30** **Lunch**
- 1.00** **The curriculum challenge**
- Redesigning the curriculum in response to the changing context, effective principles, pedagogical approaches, assessment and accreditation
 - Practical activity - setting out curriculum priorities
 - Discussion - why assess young people's employability?
- 2.00** **The employer challenge**
- Changing roles of employers in education
 - Discussion - key features of effective employer engagement
- 2.30** **The partnership challenge**
- Reviewing partnerships
 - Discussion - what works well, benefits to young people
- 2.50** **Final points and questions**
- 3.00** **Close**