

NAEGA: past, present, future a personal view

Stephen McNair
President : 2007-2010

- In a world of uncertainty, everyone needs access to good advice about how to manage all aspects of their lives, especially at crisis points (of which there will be many):
 - *Who am I?*
 - *Who do I want to be?*
 - *How might I get there?*
 - *[at what cost/risk?]*
 - *Am I getting where I want to be?*

**Why we need guidance:
a reminder**

- 1978 : EGSA Belfast
- 1979 : ACACE: *Links to Learning*
- 1982 : foundation of NAEGA
- 1984 : UDACE: the first Government commission to prepare a plan
- 1986 : The Plan: *The Challenge of Change*
- 1988 : National Educational Guidance Initiative (MSC/Employment Department)
- 1990 : The National Guidance Council – Occupational Standards and Matrix
- 1997 : Ufl, Learndirect
- 2010 : Next Step

30 years: a (selective) history

- Thanks to all who have worked for this over 30 years
 - NAEGA, ACACE, UDACE/NEGI, Guidance Council
 - Workers on quality, professional standards
 - Ufi, Learndirect
 - Civil servants
- Next Step: a world class, universal adult service

The achievement

- Informing
- Advising
- Counselling
- Assessing
- Enabling
- Advocating
- Feeding back

**A reminder: the seven activities
of educational guidance**

- The lifecourse: adulthood
- Careers, learning, and life
- Relationships with educational provision
- Relationships with employers
- Targeted or universal
- Networking: managing or coordinating
- Resources: sustainability and client centredness
- Technology: alternative or enrichment
- A profession or a service

30 years of debate: themes

- Reconfiguring capitalism?
 - Equalising
 - Rethinking the lifecourse
 - Wellbeing – changing the rules
 - Self-sufficiency
- Next Step: the last grand project before the deficit bites
- Five years of the largest, and fastest, reduction in public expenditure in our lifetime
- Not all we hope for will be achieved

Where are we now?

- Changing lifecourse:
 - Adults matter more (especially older)
 - Nonpaid work matters more
- Changing political agenda:
 - Big society
 - Self sufficiency
 - Resource constraints
 - Devolving responsibility (Headteachers, Local Authorities)

The Future?

- Reasons for an all age service:
 - Continuity for clients – placing the age break
 - The guidance process does not differ by age
 - Efficiency – sharing services
 - Reduce central micromanagement
- We can “protect” adults:
 - Safeguarding
 - Political support
- The “killer argument”?
 - Without it young people may have no service

The big issue:

an “all age” / “universal” service?

- Maintaining a voice for adults, not dictated by the needs of:
 - Young people
 - Government
 - Education and training providers
 - Employers
- How, how hard, and on what grounds to fight for adult distinctiveness
- Building a credible profession (with or without our colleagues?)

The challenges for NAEGA

We should protect and campaign for:

- Universality – all adults
- Independence
- Learning and work
- Prioritising
- Multi-mode delivery

The NAEGA Position

Good luck!