



# NAEGA East

## Newsletter Summer 2003

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**Welcome** to the second NAEGA East Newsletter for 2003 and thanks to those of you who have sent your email addresses to Pam to reduce distribution costs. Please feel free to circulate the newsletters to friends and colleagues who you think might be interested. In this edition we have a review of the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary NAEGA conference held in Chester in early July, an incisive view of the Skills White Paper and what it means for us guidance professionals, and an exciting taste of our upcoming **professional development event in Cambridge on 16<sup>th</sup> October.**

Our last event on **Testing Solutions for Guidance and Recruitment** had excellent evaluations from attendees; here are some comments:

*"Both sessions excellent"*  
*"Unexpectedly thought provoking"*  
*"Really informative – well presented"*  
*"More days like these"*  
*"Good day for networking"*

If you didn't come you missed a really good day – put the next TWO dates in your diary (see overleaf).

Please contact us and let us know what you would like to see NAEGA East doing for you, contact details for the Executive Committee members can be found at the end of this newsletter. Hope you are all having a great summer.

Saskia Kent, Editor.

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### Skills White Paper

The much anticipated Government White Paper, "21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills", was published in July. Was it worth the wait? The answer may depend upon your perspective. Readers expecting a further boost for Information Advice and Guidance services for adults may feel disappointed. If you are inclined to this view, you might interpret the news that the LSC is to conduct an urgent national follow-up of adults who have received advice via IAG partnerships, as a further sign that the definitive case for IAG services remains to be made.

Rumours that the Skills White Paper would set out an enhanced role for IAG services in Workforce Development seem wide of the mark. Instead, the relatively brief references to IAG come mainly in the traditional context of helping individuals with well informed decisions about learning and work.

The 143 page White Paper describes a long-term strategy to ensure employers have the right supply of skills for a successful business and that individuals have the skills to make them employable and fulfilled. In just over a page devoted to IAG services, the White Paper promises an Action Plan by Christmas. This will address what the White Paper describes as the need to improve the quality, consistency and visibility of local IAG provision for adults.

Specific proposals to be included in the Action Plan are to integrate the national Ufi/Learndirect advice service with local IAG services. Funds for both will be channelled via the LSC in future. There will be a clearer definition of what adults can expect by way of IAG services coupled with national branding and marketing. Better labour market information, available on-line is also mooted.

Coinciding with the White Paper's launch came an urgent request to each IAG partnership for a sample of client details for a national telephone evaluation on the impact of advice provision to be conducted in August. The results will help inform the forthcoming review of public spending, which will set the levels of expenditure across Government programs for the next three years.

**All the signs are that we still need to press the case for adequately funded and permanent IAG services for adults. NAEGA National representatives are meeting Minister, Ivan Lewis, in September and all NAEGA members can contribute by collecting case studies and statistics to demonstrate (again!) how guidance is effective and what socio-economic impacts it has on individuals.**

Forward case studies URGENTLY to NAEGA East at [p.r.jardine@herts.ac.uk](mailto:p.r.jardine@herts.ac.uk) so that we can ensure that our voices are heard at the highest levels of government.

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## 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Conference

Guidance workers from all over the country descended on the fine city of Chester for our annual conference in the hot and sultry days of the first week of July. This year's conference, **Guidance through the Ages**, was a smash hit with record attendance and a high quality menu of workshops and speakers. It was really gratifying to meet people from so many different professional backgrounds who felt that the NAEGA conference was the one to go to this year. The publication of the Skills White Paper coincided with the conference and it was clear that delegates wanted to impress on government the importance of our role in helping people find meaningful and rewarding careers and training options as adults. As you can see from the previous article, we need to keep up the pressure on government to ensure that adult guidance, particularly in England where there is not a comprehensive all age service, receives the central government support and commitment that is required. NAEGA East will continue to lobby on your behalf though we need you to let us know what is concerning you most so that we can be more effective and representative of you as members.

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## NAEGA East Membership

Hopefully most of you will have been contacted recently to ensure that the details we have on our database about you are correct. If we've done our job well, you should have received this newsletter direct to your desk! Please let me know if any of your details are incorrect or have changed.

The Executive has decided to increase the cost of events to non-members to £45 whilst keeping the charge to members to just £30 ...

**... so now it's even better value to be a NAEGA member, you automatically become a member of NAEGA East when you join!**

Do you know of anyone who would like to become a member of NAEGA? If so, then ask them to contact me on:

[p.r.jardine@herts.ac.uk](mailto:p.r.jardine@herts.ac.uk) or by phone 01727 813656

Pam Jardine, Membership Secretary

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## £££ - Treasurer's report

The good news is that 22 people attended the last excellent professional development event the bad news is that we need at least 35 attendees to break even after covering the room and paying for professional speakers. A net loss of £173.70 was incurred and although, we have relatively healthy bank balances at present, running costs are high and cannot

be sustained in the long term if numbers remain low. **PLEASE** let us know what would encourage YOU to come – day, time, venue, or topic. It is our aim to provide members with first-class events involving first-class speakers and facilitators, and, therefore, we urge members to take advantage of this valuable opportunity for professional development and networking.

Ann Barber, Hon. Treasurer

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## Next Event 16<sup>th</sup> October

***Advice and Guidance - is there a future for you? The Skills Strategy and Beyond & Redundancy Counselling Skills for Practitioners***

Don't miss our next exciting training event at the Professional Development Centre in Cambridge. We are really pleased to announce that NAEGA President Judy Alloway has agreed to come all the way from the West Country for a discussion and presentation on the implications of current government thinking for us as professionals. Whilst we give advice and guidance to others, what about our own job security, redundancy, status, pays scales and professional qualifications? Are we able to attract the best people to our profession given that many of us are on short term contracts? How will NAEGA take our case forward? Come along and let your voice be heard!

In the afternoon we will be looking at redundancy counselling with Jane Cox of The Akenham Partnership. Given the apparent slow down in the economy and recent announcements affecting our region, this is a great opportunity to develop our professional skills in this important area.

**DIARY DATE – FOR 2004  
Wednesday 11 February 2004**

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## NAEGA East Office-bearers:

Kathy Blackmore, Chair, [kathy.blackmore@ntlworld.com](mailto:kathy.blackmore@ntlworld.com)  
Ann Barber, Honorary Treasurer, [a.l.barber@herts.ac.uk](mailto:a.l.barber@herts.ac.uk)  
Pam Jardine, Membership Secretary, [p.r.jardine@herts.ac.uk](mailto:p.r.jardine@herts.ac.uk)  
Martin Peel, Speaker Coordinator, [Martin.peel@iag.suffolkcc.gov.uk](mailto:Martin.peel@iag.suffolkcc.gov.uk)  
Christine Adams, Secretary, [c.adams@open.ac.uk](mailto:c.adams@open.ac.uk)  
Saskia Kent, Newsletter Editor, [s.kent@weetu.org](mailto:s.kent@weetu.org)  
Ann Canham, National Rep, [team@lrp.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:team@lrp.freeserve.co.uk)

## NAEGA National

PO Box 459, Belfast BT2 8YA  
Email: [admin@naega.org.uk](mailto:admin@naega.org.uk)

Tel:028 9027 1509

See NAEGA online at [www.naega.org.uk](http://www.naega.org.uk)