

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE SERVICES

## REPORT TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

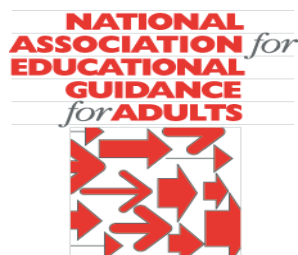
8 OCTOBER 1983

President: Dr Dorothy Eagleson (EGSA Belfast)

### Executive Committee

Chair:	Jonathan F Brown	(LEASA, Newcastle upon Tyne)
Vice-Chair:	Anna Patterson	(CALA, Camden)
Hon. Secretary:	Terry Ashurst	(SMEAS, Manchester)
Treasurer:	Judith Bell	(Open University)
	Carolyn Bell	(INSET, Southwark)
	Kevin Burton	(Education Shop Tower Hamlets)
	Linda Butler	(EASP)
	Penny Young	
	Roger Mercer	(ARE)
	John Taylor	(ECCTIS)
	Joan Springall	(EGA, Hatfield)
	Barrie Thompson	(ALEC, Birmingham)
	Paddy Powell	(Sutton College of Liberal Arts)

Membership Secretary: Joe Ogden (SMEAS)



*This copy of the first annual report is reproduced for the 2003 Conference to mark the 21st birthday of NAEGA. (NAEGS became NAEGA in the 1990s)*

ANNUAL REPORT

June 1982- September 1983

NAEGS was created to serve the needs of Educational Guidance Services. The decision to form the Association was taken at the Association for Recurrent Education (ARE) Conference held at Bretton Hall College, Wakefield in June 1982. That inaugural meeting adopted a draft constitution and elected an executive committee. The committee has met four times (in London, Manchester, Birmingham and Sheffield). Like most individual Educational Guidance Services, the executive committee has found itself 'awash' with goodwill, short of cash and overworked.

#### **A. Goodwill**

The goodwill is easy to see. Since ACACE published *Links to Learning* there have been constant references to the need for educational advice and guidance. In the year under review, the recommendation has been clearly expressed in the ACACE Report *Education for Unemployed Adults* and in MSCs consultative paper *Towards an Adult Training Strategy*. The Association has responded very positively to these recommendations. The advocacy of improved and universal educational guidance services in the face of the problems arising from long term unemployment has since received support from the detailed research at the University of Glasgow by Mr Ian Bryant (*Education and Long-term Unemployed Adults*). It is also clear from our discussions with colleagues in education, in library and career services around the country, that there is abundant goodwill towards Educational Guidance for Adults. This goodwill has been fostered and sustained by the work of the Educational Advisory Service Project (EASP) over the past three years. Of particular importance has been the annual updating of the *Directory of Educational Guidance Services* by EASP (and published by ACACE). The April 1983 update contains 49 entries compared with 18 listed in an appendix to *Links for Learning*. But the most important contribution of EASP will become clearer with the publication of the reports and manuals which will accompany the eventual demise of the project. The two reports on the research are both in proof form and will be published by ACACE (*Educational Guidance for Adults: a review and some case studies of provision*) and by the British Library (*The Role of Public Libraries in Educational Guidance for Adults*).

These two reports will again give testimony to the need for educational guidance and challenge all to look at practices and training. In addition a Manual for Educational Guidance Services (*Educational Guidance: a new service for adult learners*) will be published by the Open University to coincide with the first Annual Conference of the Association. The timing of publication is most appropriate as the Manual is geared towards explaining and developing practice in the light of experience gained by EGSA's throughout the U.K. It is also appropriate that the Open University should be involved in the publication of the Manual as the University has played a leading role in promoting the establishment of Educational Guidance Services in various parts of the country, following the Report of its *Committee on Continuing Education* (Chair: Venables) in 1976. It has also hosted EASP during its existence. The Association wishes to place on record the support it has received from Derek Gains (Project Director) and Linda Butler (Research Fellow) of EASP. The Association is taking steps to make sure that the Manual and Directory will be updated regularly now that the work of both EASP and ACACE is coming to an end.

There have also been other practical expressions of the interest in educational guidance. The establishment of Open Tech, PICK-UP and ECCTIS have all been accompanied by acceptance that information and advice are needed to make these programmes effective. The Association has sought to establish links with each of these projects and is pleased that they have been able to participate so fully in our first annual conference.

The other part of the goodwill we have noted is in the progress of individual Services. We do not have complete information on this (indeed, one of the ways in which we hope to grow is to encourage the exchange of this sort of information) but we have been heartened by the following:

- ü the funding by the British Library of research and development to produce a training package for Public Libraries dealing with Continuing Education Enquiries (undertaken by EASP Oct 83- Mar 84)
- ü the improvement in levels of support and extension of the number of services by ILEA (this includes the commencement of three new services in 83-84)
- ü the more permanent funding of services in Bradford, Leeds and Sheffield and Southampton by the respective LEAs
- ü the obtaining of a contribution from the European Social Fund by the City of Manchester, part of which will be used to expand educational guidance
- ü the attendance by representatives of 12 separate services at the International Study Conference on Educational Guidance in Denmark in February 1983
- ü the contribution of the London Borough of Southwark and the Greater London Training Board to the expansion of INSET
- ü the publication (to coincide with our Conference) of *Bibliography of Reference Materials for Educational Guidance* by London Educational Advice and Counselling Services (copies from Rob Davidson, INSET)

## **B. The Need for Educational Guidance for Adults**

This brief account of the goodwill requires a restatement of the need for educational guidance services. The Association believes that there should be freely accessible Educational Guidance available for adults in all parts of the country. Without the guidance from such services, the task of the adult seeking to study is full of problems. These problems concern:

- ß modes of study
- ß levels of study
- ß location of study
- ß the variety of educational providers
- ß the casual anarchy of fees and grant regulations complicated as they are by varieties of practice over discretionary awards and concessions on fees (for the unemployed e.g.)
- ß the relationship of qualifications to vocational aspirations and training
- ß the variety of subject / topic of study
- ß entry requirements.

In short these are complicated questions of "Where?" "Why?" "How much?" and "What for?" which require an answer as well as the question of individual motivation, abilities and aspirations. Put simply we need educational guidance services freely and universally to enable potential students to grasp the possibilities open to them, to comprehend their own needs and how best they can be satisfied. It is a task which is enormous, and which requires differing local responses according to the strength of other services (particularly libraries, careers and MSC services) which EGSA's seek to complement. The Association has adopted as a priority the maintenance and development of existing services and the development of new services in areas not currently served.

## **C. The Problem of Finance**

However, a catalogue of the goodwill towards educational guidance for adults and a restatement of the need for such Services will not include the problem of finance. The vast majority, if not all, EGSA's are underfunded. The underfunding is apparent in all they attempt to do and is often compounded by temporary arrangements (MSC and Inner City Grants

or other forms of Urban Aid). The Association itself has inherited a similar position. Despite attempts to attract modest start-up finance, it has no funds, except those subscribed by its membership and a very welcome loan of £50 from the Association of Recurrent Education (a generous and much appreciated gesture). This shortage of funds has, however, been a useful reminder of the frugality that needs to be exercised by its members. But a national organisation does cost money and any service provided will eat into subscription funds. It has been decided that accounts will run to a financial year, ending at 31 March. The first 'year' of operation will run till 31 March 1984. A financial report will therefore be included in our Second Annual Report.

At 1st September 1983 our membership is as follows:

Full members	38
Associate members	17
Individual members	<u>39</u>
Total	<u>94</u>

#### **D. The Work of the Association in 1982/83**

The other condition which the Association shares with its members is overwork. It has not been possible to achieve all that we would wish. However actions have been initiated in the field of publications, meetings, representation, contacts and 'consultancy' .

1. Publications: The first two *Newsheets* have been published and it is hoped that these will now appear every other month. In addition there will be longer *Views Sheets* in which exchange of ideas and practice will be possible. The first of these is imminent and it is hoped to publish these three times per year. The Association is also committed to finding ways of updating the *Directory of Services* previously published by ACACE and to keep the annually updated *Manual for Guidance Services* in print. It is also hoped that a series of leaflets to augment the work of individual Services will be established (e.g. mandatory grants or '21 hour' rule).
2. Meetings: The Executive Committee has met 4 times (at London, Birmingham, Manchester and Sheffield) during the year and there have also been meetings of the two sub-groups (Conference and News/Views). The Committee has also under consideration regional seminars on the new technology and educational information. Two mini presentations on educational guidance services and an information stall were arranged at the Annual Study Conference of the National Institute of Adult Education at Exeter in April
3. 'Consultancy': The Association is anxious to help where any Service has difficulties or in the establishment of new Services. At least six contacts of this kind have been initiated during the year and it is hoped that this role will increase.
4. Relationships with Other Organisations: Meetings have been held with representatives of the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, ECCTIS and Open Tech. ARE, EASP and ECCTIS have been represented on our Steering Committee. We have applied for membership of the Advice Services Alliance. It is hoped to widen the scope of our contacts with other complementary organisations.
5. Constitution: The Draft Constitution has been the subject of review during the year and advice has been obtained from the National Council of Social Services. The result is the substantial document presented to the First Annual Conference.

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE SERVICES

## THE ASSOCIATION

The Association was launched in July 1982 in response to the needs expressed by a variety of individuals and organizations working with adults in the context of education and training opportunities. The aims of the Association reflect the needs and concerns of those works:-

The aims of the Association are:

- a) to encourage the formation of educational guidance services and to assist their maintenance and development
- b) to promote high standards of practice
- c) to facilitate the training of all involved in providing the services
- d) to promote the acceptance of educational guidance services

## BENEFITS

**NEWSLETTER** to exchange information on services

## **INFORMATION SHEETS**

to cover major topics upon which advice is given

**DIRECTORY** to ensure that the ACACE Directory of Services is continued on an annual basis

**ADVICE** on the establishment and maintenance of services

**TRAINING** for staff and volunteers in educational guidance services

**EVENTS** conferences and other events related to educational guidance for adults