

# Paper Petition Details

## Connexions

With the recent change in Government there have been significant in-year cuts to the Area Based Grant (ABG), which is how Connexions services are funded. All young people (13-19 or up to 25 with a Learning Disability or Difficulty) who access the Connexions provision are going to be affected. As a result of these cuts the Local Authority in Slough are reducing funding for the Connexions service in order to meet their in year cuts to the ABG. From 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011, the service will be drastically reduced with the majority of young people who have previously accessed the Connexions service no longer being able to. The level of service currently provided by Connexions Berkshire in the area is vital to the development and wellbeing of young people both socially and economically. The work that Connexions does, as well as the additional added value programmes and support offered, acts as a catalyst to young people's progression in to Education, Employment and Training. Providing impartial Information, Advice and Guidance on a range of issues, young people feel comfortable to access Connexions as a confidential service for support or to signpost them on to the help they need.

This petition is to show the support of people who live, work or study in the Authority's area for a service that focuses on the local needs of its young people. The value that it brings to the local area is far reaching and without the funds from the ABG there will be a noticeable decrease in the positive outcomes that young people achieve. Although the decision to drastically reduce the service from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 would not have been made lightly, we feel that it is a decision which should be reconsidered.

**This petition was received on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2010.**

**This petition was debated by the Council on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

### Final Results

<b>Number of Signatures</b>	<b>1608</b>
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### Council Response

Following debate the Council agreed:-

'To note that Connexions has provided a valuable service to young people in Slough, but that funding was substantially reduced effective of June 2010 by the Tory Lib Dem coalition.

That the council is committed to fulfilling its contractual obligations with Connexions resulting in a continuation of the current level of service and current level of funding up until 31st March 2011 despite the Government having already terminated a portion of the funding in year.

The Council is also committed to offering advice services to Slough young people which supports their development and wellbeing both socially and economically, and recommends that Cabinet ensures that these objectives continue to be available to Slough young people after March 2011.'