

## Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) Provider Access Policy

### Introduction

South Thames Colleges Group (STCG) is made up of Carshalton College, Kingston College, Merton College and South Thames College. The Group is committed to providing high quality, impartial careers education, information, advice, and guidance to support every student to fulfil their potential. As set out in the [Strategic Plan](#) the Group has an ambitious agenda for the next four years to ‘bond our curriculum to the local economy, delivering the skilled people it needs to widen prosperity and diversify our working population.’

Delivering high quality careers education and guidance is an essential part our agenda to transform diversity into success and grow wellness in our community. To prepare all our students for the workplace by developing knowledge and understanding of all available pathways, providing a clear understanding of the world of work and learning about jobs and careers that they may find engaging and rewarding.

Our vision is to excel at what we do;

- Delivering great outcomes for young people and adults of all backgrounds and abilities to make sure their life chances are improved.
- Supporting students to make equitable choices that are right for them.
- Ensure that our curriculum offer connects students to the world of work, developing the skills, knowledge, and behaviours that employers locally, regionally, and nationally tell us they need.

This policy statement is underpinned by the DfE Careers Strategy: The DfE ‘Baker Clause’ 2021, and the Provider Access Legislation (2023; Careers guidance and access for education and training providers (2022); and The Gatsby Benchmarks for Careers Education and Guidance (2024).

### Commitment

South Thames Colleges Group is committed to ensuring there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students, for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships. We are fully aware of our responsibility to set students on the path that will secure the best outcome for them and deliver a skilled and diverse working population. That means acting impartially, in line with the statutory duty, and not showing bias towards any pathway, be that academic or technical.

South Thames Colleges Group endeavours to ensure that all students are aware of all routes to higher skills and are able to access information on technical options and apprenticeships allowing them to make informed and equitable choices about their next step (The Department of Education, July 2021: “Baker Clause”: supporting students to understand the full range of education and training options, and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023).

### Aims

This policy for Access to other education and training providers has the following aims:

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- To develop the knowledge and awareness of our students of all pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships.
- To support young people to be able to learn more about opportunities for education and training outside of college before making informed and equitable choices about their future options.
- To ensure students are on their chosen pathway, reducing the risk of their withdrawing from courses or programmes and / or becoming NEET (young people **Not** in Education, Employment or Training).

### **Student Entitlement**

South Thames Colleges Group fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. As best practice we comply with the requirement to put on at least two encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be done in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week and or at other times in the year e.g. HE Fairs in October, in addition to sector specific events which take place across the year.

### **Development**

This policy has been developed by the College Academic Leadership team and is reviewed by the Group Careers Leader based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

### **Links with other policies**

It supports and is underpinned by key policies including the Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Policy, Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy, Inclusive Learning Policy, Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy and the Student Voice Policy.

### **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**

Access to other providers is available and promoted to allow all students to access information about other providers of further education and apprenticeships. South Thames Colleges Group is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Access will be given for providers to attend during progression events and themed weeks such as HE Fairs and Employability Weeks, and through the college tutorial and enrichment Xtra programme.

### **Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a person who is given access**

South Thames Colleges Group will provide appropriate facilities. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms and additional spaces or equipment can also be arranged through our Facilities teams. These activities will usually be organised by the Careers, Business Partnerships and Employability Teams, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate to the audience. Providers will be met and supervised by the relevant staff who will facilitate.

- Please refer to our [Freedom of Speech and Visiting Speaker Policy](#) (incorporating the Code of Practice).

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### **Requests for access**

Requests for access should be directed to David Williamson, Vice Principal Students Services and nominated by the Group Careers Leader. David may be contacted by email:

[David.Williamson@stcg.ac.uk](mailto:David.Williamson@stcg.ac.uk).

### **Live Virtual encounters**

South Thames Colleges Group will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

### **Parents and Carers**

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers.

### **Monitoring review and evaluation**

The Policy is reviewed by the Careers Leader and amended to reflect any relevant legislation changes via the Group Senior Leadership Team.

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