



NNECL quality mark framework to improve the support for care experienced people in colleges and universities

Call for support

We are pleased to announce that we have been successful in securing a grant from the [UPP Foundation](#) to develop and test an accreditation framework to improve the support for care experienced people in colleges and universities in England.

Project background

The project supports the NNECL commissioned research 'Moving on Up' led by Dr Neil Harrison, which highlighted that 'even once entry qualifications are taken into account, care leavers were 38% more likely to withdraw from their course and not return' (Harrison, 2017). The report also identified the need for: stronger relationships between universities and local authorities; better-equipped staff; and more targeted support. The research recommended that NNECL explore the development of a quality mark.

The project supports NNECL's long-term goal to see at least 50% of higher education institutions developing targeted support for care experienced people at every phase (access, retention and employability) by 2022. It is hoped the framework will become the national standard for higher education support for care experienced students and will benefit thousands of students each year.

NNECL is part of an exciting collaboration with the Centre for Social Justice and First Star Academies which will allow us to build on the research outcomes of the 12 for 24 initiative within the NNECL quality mark framework. We will also be working with Spectra First and the Department for Education to explore ways in which NNECL can support the Care Leaver Covenant outcomes.

The pilot will run from February-December 2019 and will be led by a specialist with expertise in developing quality frameworks who will report to the NNECL Board of Trustees.

Institutional support for the pilot

We are seeking a small number of FE and HE institutions from across England to be involved in the pilot scheme, to help us develop and test the quality framework.

Expectations of the pilot institutions:

- Strategic commitment from senior management teams; successful institutions will be required to sign a project agreement;
- To provide a named contact who will actively engage with the NNECL and the specialist consultant to support the development of the accreditation framework;
- To be willing to engage with the pilot project from April to December 2019;
- To allow the named contact to attend project group meetings (approximately 1 meeting per term) which will be held across England; expenses will need to be met by the institution;



- To trial the pilot quality mark framework within their institution, by monitoring progress and providing regular progress reports to NNECL and the consultant;
- To support the development of the quality framework guidance, which may include being a case study in project materials.

Selection criteria

We are seeking a maximum of 8 FE and HE institutions in England to be involved in this pilot project. To ensure the success of the project, we require the pilot institutions to be of varying sizes, mission groups, geographies and profiles. The selection of the pilot institutions will be made by a selection committee including members of the National Strategy Group and Board of Trustees.

How to apply

To be considered for this innovative project, please complete the attached application form. The application form should be sent to info@nnecl.org by **Tuesday 19th March**. Selection and notification of the successful institutions will be announced by April.