**NNECL Quality Mark Assessors**

***Would you like to contribute to improving support for care-experienced students in universities and colleges?***

The National Network for the Education of Care Leavers (NNECL) is seeking applications for a panel of assessors to work on our new Quality Mark (QM) for the inclusion and success of care experienced students in higher and further education. The QM is in the final stages of development and we expect to launch and roll out from summer 2021 onwards.

The QM process is designed to be a holistic self-assessment across seven, inter-related areas: institutional culture and leadership; pre-entry activity and outreach; admissions; student wellbeing; student success; collaborative and partnership working; and a commitment to continuous improvement and evaluation. For each area, the QM has identified criteria statements against which participating institutions will provide evidence for assessment. The process will also help institutions to design an action plan for further improvement in their ongoing support for care experienced students.

The assessor’s role will be to support participating institutions through the development of their submission and action plan, to review the evidence provided and to make a recommendation to NNECL on the award of the QM. Training will be provided and a fixed fee of £500 will be payable per assessment. Each assessment is likely to involve a time commitment of around 20-25 hours and would include up to three virtual meetings with the institutional lead contact to discuss progress, as well as the final review itself.

**Person specification**

We are looking for people who are committed to the education and support of care experienced students and can demonstrate the following mix of knowledge, expertise and experience:

* Significant experience in widening participation in higher and/or further education, including a detailed understanding of effective practice in working with care experienced students;
* Strong analytical and evaluation skills with the ability to make reliable, consistent and evidence-based judgements;
* Knowledge of recent research on the challenges faced by care experienced students;
* Excellent interpersonal, facilitation and written communication skills;
* A good understanding of the diversity of higher and further education providers, and sensitivity to individual institutional cultures and processes;
* Knowledge of the wider sector context, including the roles of agencies such as UCAS and HESA; and
* The ability to work effectively as part of a team with NNECL staff and other assessors and to adhere to agreed procedures and deadlines.

We would particularly welcome applications from people with personal experience of the care system.

To apply for an assessor role, please submit the following to info@nnecl.org, clearly marked as NNECL QM Assessor Application:

* A short curriculum vitae;
* A covering statement demonstrating how you meet the person specification for the role (2 pages); and
* An example of a relevant piece of work (e.g. conference presentation, report or project example).

The closing date for applications is: **Sunday 11 April 2021**. Online interviews will take place in late April/early May 2021.

For further information, please contact the NNECL Director, Patricia Ambrose on patricia@nnecl.org.