

Influence our future as a NNECL Trustee

NNECL is seeking 2-3 new trustees to broaden the range of skills and experience on our Board. If you are committed to supporting care experienced students and would like to help our charity to grow and develop further, we would love to hear from you.

About NNECL

The National Network for the Education of Care Leavers (NNECL) is a registered charity (No. 1180793) and charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), formally established in 2018.

We are a community of professionals working together to transform the progression of care experienced people into and through further and higher education. Our mission is to support, connect and empower our community, with the ultimate goal that more care-experienced people will be able to access and progress successfully through further and higher education.

NNECL is governed by a Board of Trustees and employs a small staff team (Director and Communications and Administrative Officer). Our work is informed by our network of regional and local groups which feed into our National Strategy Group. We currently have just over 80 organisations in membership, comprising mainly universities and colleges, but with a growing number of other organisations including charities, local authorities, virtual schools and fostering agencies.

Our remit is particularly focused on supporting practitioners in universities and colleges who are working with, and for, care experienced students. We do this by:

- developing and sharing effective practice via our regional groups and National Strategy Group;
- advocacy with policymakers and sector bodies in higher and further education;
- working in partnership with cognate charities and other relevant organisations;
- commissioning our own research and disseminating findings from others' research; and
- providing training, events and guidance materials.

Recent achievements have included the development and launch of a new [Quality Mark](#) for universities and colleges to demonstrate the effectiveness of their support for care experienced students.

Please visit our website (www.nnecl.org) for further information about our governance, structure and activities.

Trustee roles

NNECL is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and recognises that this covers both the protected characteristics and a range of other factors including background and culture. The NNECL Board values contributions from different perspectives and seeks to ensure an inclusive environment in which all people feel welcomed and valued. In relation to NNECL's specific remit, the Board includes representatives from the charitable and post-16 education sectors, virtual schools, and those with care experience.

Board meetings are held four times a year, with additional meetings convened, if needed. In addition, trustees may be asked to serve on sub-groups which are usually time-limited, task and finish groups. Currently all meetings are held online, but we expect to resume some face-to-face meetings when the pandemic situation improves.

We are now looking to recruit an additional 2-3 trustees to strengthen and diversify the knowledge, skills and experience mix of the current Board. In particular, we are looking for trustees with knowledge and experience in the following areas:

- further education;
- fundraising;
- marketing and communications; and
- digital skills.

As highlighted above, we are also actively seeking to continue to improve the diversity of the Board and particularly welcome applications from people with care experience.

You do not have to have experience as a trustee as induction and training will be provided. These are unpaid, voluntary roles, but travel and related expenses will be payable, where appropriate.

Our expectations

We expect all trustees to:

- Act in good faith in supporting the overall purposes and charitable objectives of NNECL;
- Contribute their skills, care and understanding pro-actively and with particular regard to any special knowledge or experience they have which may be of benefit to the charity;
- Participate in collective or individual training opportunities where they arise and are relevant;
- Fulfil commitments undertaken in a timely manner;
- Promote diversity and equality; and
- Attend regularly and participate actively in meetings.

Eligibility to serve as a trustee

To be a trustee of a CIO, you must be at least 16 years old. In addition, you must not act as a trustee if you are disqualified, unless authorised to do so by a waiver from the Charity Commission. The reasons for disqualification include:

- being bankrupt (undischarged) or having an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA)
- having an unspent conviction for certain offences (including any that involve dishonesty or deception)
- being on the sex offenders' register.

You can check the Charity Commission's [automatic disqualification guidance](#) which explains the disqualification rules in more detail.

Application and recruitment process

To be considered for these roles, please send the following by email to info@nnecl.org by **Friday 11 February 2022**:

- A curriculum vitae, including details of two referees who would be able to comment on your suitability to be a trustee; and
- A covering letter setting out your reasons for applying and the relevant knowledge, skills and experience you would bring to the role.

NB: References will only be taken up for shortlisted candidates who will be invited for interview later in February 2022.

If you would like to have an informal discussion about these roles, please contact, Patricia Ambrose, NNECL Director, via info@nnecl.org.