

Influence our future as a NNECL Co-Chair or Trustee

NNECL is seeking a new Co-Chair and one other Trustee to broaden the range of skills and experience on our Board. If you are committed to supporting the education of care experienced students and would like to help our charity to grow and develop further, we would love to hear from you.

These are unpaid, voluntary roles, but travel and related expenses will be payable, where appropriate. Induction and training will also be provided.

For both roles, we are seeking applicants with experience in fundraising and marketing. We also particularly welcome applications from those with lived experience of care and from ethnic minority communities.

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 99 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.

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.

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

Why volunteer with NNECL?

Volunteering is linked to enhanced wellbeing.

Volunteering as a Trustee with NNECL is a great way to help some of the most marginalised young people in the UK to get the best start in life. In NNECL's short life we have shown that we can punch above our weight and are looking for creative and enthusiastic individuals to help us continue our journey.

We appeal specifically to those individuals who have a passion for equality and levelling the playing field when it comes to educational opportunities.

Being a Trustee with NNECL is a great way of gaining valuable board experience, broadening your network and adding to your current skill set. We offer training and support opportunities to our Trustees – particularly first time Trustees – to help you understand how charities are structured, operate and governed.

NNECL Trustee role

Our Trustees:

- 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;
- Promote diversity and equality; and
- Attend regularly and participate actively in meetings.

What's involved

Reading preparation and attendance at two hour Board meetings which are held four times a year, with additional meetings convened, if needed.

You may also have the opportunity to volunteer for sub-groups which are usually time-limited, task and finish groups looking in detail at specific themes.

Currently all regular meetings are held online, with occasional in-person meetings such as strategic planning or away days.

NNECL Co-Chair role

Following the retirement of Dr Felicity Dunworth, we are looking for a new Co-Chair to provide inspirational governance and leadership to the organisation and the board, working in partnership with our other Co-Chair, Arron Pile.

What's involved

We are seeking an individual who shares our passion and commitment to improving support for care experienced students. You will need to be able to dedicate around 8-10 hours per month to the role.

In addition to our expectations of all trustees, you will share the following responsibilities with our other Co-Chair, with support from the Director, where relevant:

- assisting in the planning and preparation of Board agenda and papers;
- chairing two board meetings a year in rotation with the other Co-Chair and leading board discussion;
- ensuring NNECL activities and policies align with our charitable objectives;
- ensuring that the Director provides regular reports to the Board on progress against the strategic and financial plans;
- ensuring that the major risks to which the charity is exposed have been reviewed with mitigating actions put in place;
- being an advocate or spokesperson for NNECL, including occasional representation at external events;
- developing constructive working relationships with other trustees, NNECL staff and external partner organisations; and
- reviewing the Director's performance, including the annual review against agreed objectives

Person specification

For the Co-Chair role, we are seeking someone with:

- several years' experience of being a charity Trustee and, ideally, of being a Chair or Deputy Chair of a board;
- a good understanding of the responsibilities and duties of governance within the charitable sector;
- the ability to lead and ensure evidence-based, impartial and objective decision-making, including taking difficult decisions, when required; and
- the ability to nurture and maintain a culture of high performance for the board and staff team.

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.

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 either or both of these roles, please send the following by email to info@nnecl.org by **Friday 12 May 2023**:

NNECL

*working together to empower
care experienced learners*

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

Please state clearly in your application whether you are applying to be considered for one or both roles. References will be taken up for shortlisted candidates who will be invited for interview in late May/early June 2023.

If you would like to have an informal discussion about these roles, please contact Arron Pile, Co-Chair (a.pile@salford.ac.uk) or Patricia Ambrose, NNECL Director, via info@nnecl.org.