

**Tick the
Box**

The Fostering Network

NNECL

*working together to empower
care experienced learners*

NNECL- The National Network for the Education of Care Leavers

27th September 2022

About NNECL

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- ▶ Started as a volunteer network in 2012/13 – secured some project funding including from Office for Students' National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP)– hosted by University of Winchester
- ▶ Commissioned *Moving on Up* report, 2017 (Neil Harrison) - one of the first studies to provide a rounded picture of care leavers in higher education; regularly cited in Access & Participation Plans
- ▶ Became a registered charity and Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in late 2018
- ▶ Secured grant funding from Esmée Fairbairn for start-up core costs and project funding from UPP Foundation to develop new Quality Mark
- ▶ Staff team appointed from late 2019 onwards (2 people each on 0.8fte)
- ▶ Board of Trustees, National Strategy Group, network of regional groups, 90+ organisational members

NNECL mission and role

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- ▶ NNECL's distinctive focus is to assist professionals in the development and evaluation of effective practice to support care experienced learners.
- ▶ 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 through further and higher education into fulfilling careers.
- ▶ We do this by:
 - ▶ celebrating and sharing effective practice;
 - ▶ advocating with policymakers and other sector organisations in HE and FE;
 - ▶ commissioning and disseminating research;
 - ▶ providing our own training, events and guidance materials; and
 - ▶ working collaboratively with other cognate charities and sector organisations.

NNECL's Top Tips

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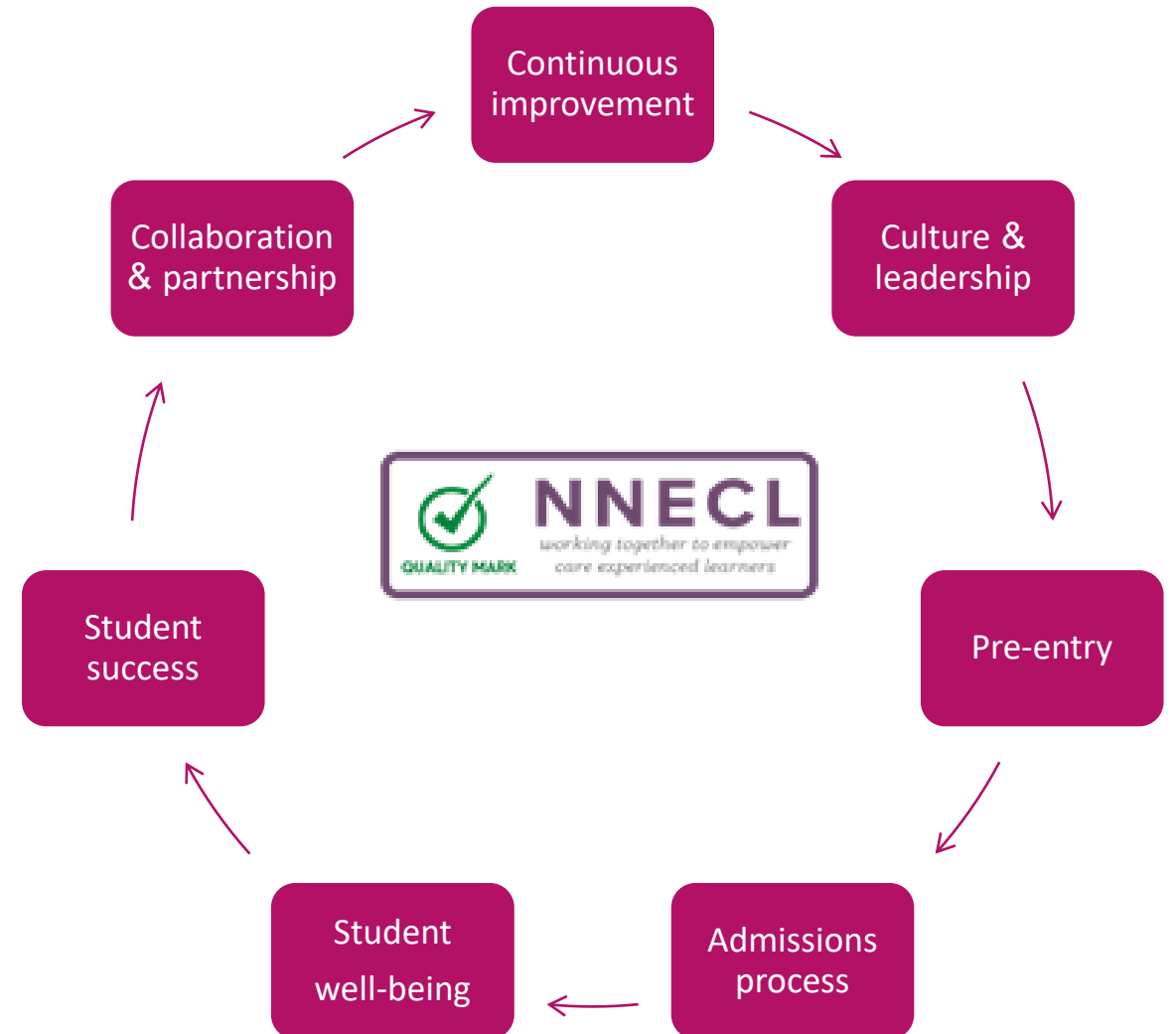
- ▶ **Research and explore your options**
 - ▶ Local WP/Outreach Teams
 - ▶ Become/Propel: <https://propel.org.uk/UK/> Research and explore your options
- ▶ **Course, City and Campus**
 - ▶ Prioritise over Offers
- ▶ **Look out for**
 - ▶ NNECL Membership and NNECL Quality Mark logo's
 - ▶ University Website care experienced offer pages
- ▶ **Student Finance England**
 - ▶ <https://www.nnecl.org/resources/19-student-finance-resources>
- ▶ **Local Authority Offer**
 - ▶ <https://www.nnecl.org/resources/local-care-leaver-offer>

NNECL Quality Mark

- Launched in June 2021 after successful pilot initiatives
- 7 areas, covering whole student lifecycle plus culture/leadership, collaboration and ongoing evaluation
- Proportionate & contextualised, reflecting diversity of institutions across HE/FE and the different policy contexts across the UK
- Awarded for 3 years with mid-point review of action plan

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NNECL Quality Mark

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- ▶ First set of awards made in June 2021 to 17 pilot institutions:
 - ▶ 13 awards made since June 2021 launch
 - ▶ 8 Institutions currently undergoing submission process
 - ▶ Expression's of Interest received from additional institutions
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- ▶ Further information on the Quality Mark at: <https://www.nnecl.org/pages/195-nnecl-quality-mark>