

# National Educational Opportunities Network (NEON)

## Supporting BTEC learners into HE Working Group

*Minute Secretary:* The Minute Secretary will be a representative of NEON and will be responsible for production of Action minutes within seven days of the meeting

### Terms of Reference

- a) To be responsible for ensuring effective collaboration and discussion between member institutions around work supporting pathways into HE for BTEC learners and learners following associated alternative qualification programmes – CACHE Diplomas, Cambridge Tech and T levels.
- b) To be responsible for facilitating genuine collaboration between the research and practice communities via paper submissions to NEON symposium and related conferences.
- c) To act as a collective voice feeding findings in to OfS on behalf of the member institutions – and also having responsibility for sharing best practice collectively at a national level.
- d) The group will act as a medium for practice sharing. The group provides a chance to showcase innovative pieces of work, but also to highlight examples of initiatives which may not have worked.

### Aims of the group – January 2019 – January 2020

- To host a research seminar in collaboration with Pearson to understand more fully the barriers faced by BTEC learners and gain learner, practitioner and teacher level feedback on our set of ‘guiding principles’
- To use the findings from this session to shape our set of ‘guiding principles’ into a printable PDF which can be disseminated across the sector
- To submit abstracts to FACE’s Annual Conference & NEON’s Summer Symposium to continue to showcase the ongoing work of the Group
- To continue to work in partnership with IntoUniversity (IU) and other member institutions to develop a set of shared resources, which can be used on a national basis to support the progression of BTEC learners into HE – Building upon the initial ‘Are you university ready?’ materials which have been developed by University of Leeds & IU
- To work with colleagues from NERUPI (Network for Evaluation & Research of University Participation Initiatives) and use their evaluation expertise to support the evaluation of our suite of pre-arrival materials for BTEC students
- To continue to work with NEON, Pearsons and associated organisations to lobby to OfS around implementation of findings from our set of ‘guiding principles’
- To work towards producing pieces of commissioned research which can support continuity with the practitioner community – Use ‘guiding principles’ model to produce a research paper based upon findings. FACE’s Annual Conference & NEON’s Summer Symposium will form the basis of the research presentation

- Bridging between the academic and practitioner communities through theming of meetings based upon our 'guiding principles' set in 2020 and beyond

### **Constitution and Membership for Session 2020/21**

Chair: Chris Bayes (Lancaster University)

Vice Chairs: Alex Blower (Southern Universities Network), Rebecca Foster (University of East Anglia), Rebecca Sykes (University of Leeds)

Representatives:

- It is proposed that each attending institution will be members of NEON
- It is proposed that representative/s from Pearson will be invited to each meeting. Representatives from alternate organisations will be invited on the basis of their work's alignment with one of our 'guiding principles'
- It is proposed that learners and teachers from the FE sector should be invited to participate in the group as appropriate in order to help make the case around what best serves school/college need to funding bodies. From reflection on Year One of the Working Group, we will aim towards hosting June and September meetings in London to ensure uptake from FEC tutors. These meetings will be advertised as 'general meetings'.

### **Frequency of Meetings**

The Group will normally meet on a quarterly basis, but extraordinary meetings may be arranged if required.

### **It is proposed that a schedule for 2020/21 will look as follows:**

June 2020 – Collaborative summit meeting held at Pearson's London Offices

September 2020 – General meeting hosted at University of Bath, Pall Mall (London) – Collaboration with NERUPI

December 2020 – Meeting at University of Leeds – Focused on 'Conducting meaningful Outreach'

March 2021 – Meeting at University of Nottingham – Focused on 'Championing fair admissions practice'

June 2021 – NEON Summit meeting to launch our 'guiding principles' and research

### **Quorum**

The quorum for meetings of the Group shall be one quarter of the membership.