

NEON Awards 2024 Nominations

Category

NEON Widening Access Partnership Award

Names of institutions involved in the partnership

University of Essex Outreach team & the Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board

Brief Description

Through this partnership SNEE ICB and the UoE have pooled together funding, expertise and stakeholder relationships to expand and tailor outreach support in Tendring and Greenstead. The partnership aims to address health inequalities in Tendring and Greenstead through preventative skills and outreach support. The work focuses on raising aspirations and knowledge of the education and career pathways within the Health and Social Care and Green sector. Greenstead and Tendring are deprived regions with lower levels of qualification 29.6% of Tendring residents and 23.3% of Greenstead residents have gained a Level 4 qualification (compared to 33.8% across England and Wales).

Why has this project been nominated

The partnership has reached over 4,400 students and residents since January 2023 and is an example of how universities can play a key role in addressing the needs of the local community through collaborative working.

The UoE Outreach team has brought the following to the partnership; experience in designing and delivering interventions for students from underrepresented backgrounds, access to relatable student role models, university academics and facilities such as the STEM Labs and Health and Social Care mock ward training facilities. In addition, links to the university's internal teams such as the sustainability team. Whilst SNEE ICB has brought to the partnership; financial input, flexibility in how funding is used to address local need, access to health care professionals, links with local employers and schools and an opportunity to collaborate with the Health and Care Academy.

Wider partnership working has also been placed at the centre of each intervention. For example, projects were co-created with Head Teachers and aligned to the aims of a wider 'Tendring Future Skills Partnership', which is made up of stakeholders from the education and public sector, the local Uni Connect partnership and the Greater Essex Careers Hub.

A further year of funding has been provided by Essex County Council to continue the collaborative work until January 2025.