

**NIACE/LSC/ Inclusion Institute  
Mental Health Partnership Programme**

**Expression of Interest**

Dear Colleagues

For the project year of 2009-10, the NIACE/LSC/Inclusion Institute Partnership Programme will be leading a series of national projects which will help implement several of the Headline Actions set out by the LSC Mental Health Strategy – The Way Forward (2009).

We are inviting Expressions of Interest from any organisation that is working to support improved access to, and success in, learning and skills for people who experience mental health difficulties by working in partnership with others. We hope to recruit one pilot site per region per project.

Below is a list of projects being developed with the contact details of the Regional Project Officer leading the work? We want to support pilot sites in each project to use an action research way of working, engaging organisations to create an action plan to develop their practice and provision within their own organisation and with other local partners. By bringing pilot sites together and facilitating shared learning opportunities, we want to support the development of your provision but also show how this can contribute to the Partnership Programme aims of promoting access to, and success in, learning and skills for people who experience mental health problems.

Each project is being led by one or two Regional Project Officers, as a national project working across all regions.

We would like to receive Expressions of Interest from a range of organisations, who feel they want to develop their provision along any of the above themes and want to be able to share your learning and development with others.

**Expressions of Interest could come from:**

- Learning providers – FE Colleges, Work-based learning providers, Adult and Community Learning teams and other providers.
- Health and Social Care providers – Community Mental Health Teams, Early Intervention Team, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Improving Access to Psychological Therapy Workers, Primary Care Services etc
- Voluntary Sector referral and support organisations.
- Job Centre Plus
- Employment Support Agencies
- Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- User-led organisations.

**What you will gain from being involved:**

- The opportunity to learn about and share good practice in one of the headline action themes.
- The chance to reflect upon your own practice in supporting people with mental health difficulties to access and succeed in learning and skills.

- To develop ideas for improving the services you offer and your provision.
- Hear about resources and training that is available to support your work.
- Contribute to the final report of the Partnership Programme in March 2010.
- Receive a certificate of learning outcomes that can be used towards your own Continued Professional Development (CPD). For learning practitioners registered with the Institute for Learning, this can be claimed as part of your 30 hours CPD.

**If you are interested in being involved, the following criteria may be useful to consider.**

- You need to be able to commit to working to a tight timescale as we need to report on progress by March 2010.
- You need to have the capacity and willingness to get the project underway quickly.
- Willingness for involvement in the project at a strategic and operational level within your organisation.
- Participation in pilot site meetings (face-to-face or virtual) and on-going communication with other pilot sites.
- Prepared to have an input into data collection, monitoring and evaluation.

To register your interest, please contact the appropriate Regional Project Officer saying why you are interested in that particular project, what expertise you think you can offer, but more importantly, what you hope to gain. All **Expressions of Interest to be received by July 10<sup>th</sup> 2009**.

Regional Project Officers will also be able to answer any queries you may have about the projects. Once we have selected pilot sites to participate in each project we will post details of the projects and pilot sites on the web, and keep all network members informed of the outcomes and findings.

As well as these projects we will also be developing other projects to support the LSC Mental Health Strategy. This includes 'Working Well – Promoting mental health and wellbeing in the Post-16 education and training workforce', Workforce Development and learner/service user involvement. These projects will underpin some of the work of the national projects. Regional Project Officers will keep you informed and up to date about these if you participate in these projects, but also through Network Learning events, the newsletter and the moodle.

Other development projects also underway are on 'Reading for Pleasure', 'Mentoring for people with mental health problems from Black and Minority Ethnic communities, 'Supporting people with Personality Disorder' and 'Transport and Travel to learning for people with mental health problems'. Further details about these projects and call for evidence will be sent out soon.

In the meantime we hope that you will respond positively to this call for Expressions of Interest and see it as an opportunity to develop your provision and your own Continuous Professional Development.

Many thanks and we look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely

Kathryn James  
**Programme Director**  
 NIACE