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Transforming local communities through innovative social work teaching partnership

A new social work teaching partnership, aiming to improve standards in social care and social workers' training in North London, will hold an event at Middlesex University on Tuesday 31 October 2017 to share some of its key findings and achievements.

The North London Social Work Teaching Partnership is part of a national Department for Education (DfE) funded project to build excellence in social work education and practice. The Partnership is led by the London Borough of Hackney and also includes Barnet, Enfield and Haringey local authorities and the charity, Norwood working in partnership with Middlesex University.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the School of Health and Education, Jan Williams, said:

“ Recognising Middlesex University’s values of putting our students first, working collaboratively, acting with integrity and shaping the future, I am delighted that we are partners in this initiative. The teaching partnership will enhance the experiences of our students, allow us to share best practice in working with communities and will improve employment opportunities for the benefit of all.

I am confident this innovative development will be an exemplar from which others will learn and would like thank all colleagues involved in making this happen. ”

The teaching partnership aims to improve the training, recruitment and retention of social workers across North London and enhance innovation, excellence and creativity in service delivery through sharing knowledge and research.

Anne Canning, Group Director, Children, Adults and Community Health at the London Borough of Hackney said:

“ We are very pleased to be leading this innovative project to improve and enhance the training, recruitment and retention of social workers in Hackney and across North London. Building closer links between students and practising social workers enables us to bring together academic theory and best practice for aspiring social workers which will better equip them to meet the current and future challenges of social care.

As well as providing development opportunities for senior practitioners, students benefit from mentors in the field and the scheme enables them to embark on a defined career pathway. It's an important investment to drive quality across the board helping to build excellence in social care. ”

The Partnership is a part, employer-led initiative which aims to offer progression throughout the social care workforce, recognise the importance of supporting aspiring managers and expert practitioners and promote pride in the profession.

Speakers at the inaugural event include Professor Tim Blackman, Vice-Chancellor of Middlesex University, Anne Canning, Group Director, Children, Adults and Community Health at London Borough of Hackney, Dr Adi Cooper OBE, Co-Chair of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, and Dr Patricia Cartney from the University of Manchester - a partner in the North West Teaching Partnership.

The North London Teaching Partnership also promotes research at a local level for practitioners to develop their skills and offer studying opportunities leading to postgraduate qualifications where social workers can research issues and identify solutions to local social care challenges - supported by Middlesex University.

The Partnership also provides opportunities for experienced practitioners to deliver lectures at Middlesex University and experts in practice, research and academia to deliver Learning Symposia on a number of current topics, building upon the commitment to share best practice and knowledge across all partner organisations and improving outcomes for communities in North London.

For more information about the North London Social Work Teaching Partnership, go to www.northlondonsocialwork.co.uk

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