

Essex County Council
Cabinet Office
PO Box 11
County Hall
Chelmsford
Essex CM1 1LX



Date: 14th July 2020

Dear Colleague,

The Nightingale Social Care Bursary and Nursing Apprenticeship Scheme

To celebrate the 200th birthday of Florence Nightingale and the 50th anniversary of Adult Social Care becoming part of the Local Authority, Essex County Council is proud to launch the Nightingale Social Care Bursary and Nursing Apprenticeship Scheme.

The two elements of the scheme, with total funding of £1,110,000, will help provide a gateway to training opportunities and qualifications in the care profession, with a specific aim of reaching those in areas where they may not otherwise have such an opportunity or, if they did, may not have the confidence to taking it up

The first element of this fund is the Nightingale Social Care Bursary, totalling £300,000. This is aimed at reducing barriers to training opportunities, by funding people from the most deprived communities to achieve social care qualifications, or supporting existing care workers who are not eligible for an apprenticeship and would ordinarily have to part- or fully-fund their own training. The qualifications will help to raise the skills and confidence of this valued workforce and enable individuals to progress and excel in their role.

With the 50th anniversary of Health and Social Care becoming part of the local authority in mind, the bursary will enable 85 people already working in the sector without a qualification in Health & Social Care to gain a national and sector-recognised Diploma that supports their job role. An additional 110 employees will be able to undertake an accredited Certificate that will support their Continuous Professional Development within Health & Care sector.

ACL (Adult Community Learning) will be delivering this exciting programme and will be on hand to answer any questions that you have.

If individuals wish to improve their maths and English skills as part of their programme ACL will fund these qualifications through its Adult Education Budget allocation that it receives from the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In addition to the bursary for training there may be additional financial support available to pay for books and equipment directly related to the course undertaken. This will be discussed with applicants as part of the interview process.

The second element of the scheme is for nursing apprenticeships. Essex County Council is working with the University of Essex and Anglia Ruskin University to

develop and deliver a new and innovative pathway into nursing from within the social care sector; essentially enabling them to grow their own workforce. The council has pledged to fully fund 30 nursing degree placements using funds from the apprenticeship levy, supplemented by £270,000 of direct council funding.

We will target the funding to nursing care providers commissioned by ECC who are on a framework contract or are a Tier 1 provider.

The funding will be used to pay for the degree apprenticeship route into registered nursing through the universities. The employing organisation must be based within the ECC boundary and the individual undertaking training will be an Essex resident employed on a full-time permanent basis within an Essex-located nursing home. The employer will continue to pay the salary/wage for the individual during the apprenticeship and comply with the requirements of the apprenticeship standards (e.g. work placements).

Communications will be going out very shortly to organisations informing them of this scheme and encouraging them to take advantage of the offer. The purpose of this letter is to make sure that you are aware of our proposal and have the opportunity to pass on the information to those you feel may benefit.

I will ensure you are kept up to date with the communications around this. In the meantime, if you have any queries, please let me know.

Yours sincerely



Cllr John Spence CBE
Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care

Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford