

## High Needs, High Aspirations

“**High Needs, High Aspirations**” aims to challenge and at the same time enthuse delegates.

Firstly, how do we identify and meet the significant needs of students, staff, professionals and families, as we continue to negotiate a system which has been through almost ten years of austerity and financial challenge, combined with major legislative and structural change? And how do we do this effectively against a backdrop of cultural, political and economic upheaval and uncertainty?

Secondly, how can we stretch the boundaries, raise expectations, and support students to fulfil their full potential? Having high aspirations, for students and the specialists that work with them, and showcasing the expertise and excellence that exists in colleges and their partner organisations, has never been more important.

This 2-day event will bring you the very best practice in specialist further education, celebrating achievements and highlighting the latest in cutting edge research.

There is a mix of keynote speeches, workshops and hot topic discussion forums to choose from. Hot topic forums will provide an opportunity for informal discussion, supported by a facilitator, between delegates with shared interests.

Delegates are asked to book their workshop via the booking website.

Each workshop is colour-coded so that people with different responsibilities and interests can identify what might be relevant to them.

- **Teal – Strategic leadership:** of interest to people whose role covers leadership, policy, strategy and local authority relationships
- **Dark blue – Operational management:** of interest to those managing delivery (TLA, staffing,) finance, fundraising, staff recruitment and retention, contracting and payment / partnership delivery with employers or community organisations
- **Pink – Curriculum, teaching, learning and support:** of interest to people involved in planning and reviewing the curriculum or who are after practitioner advice, tools, resources, on teaching, learning and support
- **Light blue – Care, student support and welfare:** of interest to people whose role includes care, mental health, behaviour, PDBW, safeguarding therapies, technology, parent/carer support

## Workshop information

### Day 1 – Tuesday 2 April 2019

#### How can specialist providers demonstrate value for money?

##### Strategic

##### Workshops 1 & 8 – Davina Jones, National Star

How can specialist providers show that their provision makes a difference, that the benefits for the young people and wider society outweigh the costs? Come along to hear about the research National Star has commissioned in this area and how they are using the findings, including with local authority commissioners. This workshop is suitable for any delegates interested in impact measures including social return on investment.

#### Assistive technology assessment

##### Operational

##### Curriculum

##### Care

##### Workshops 2 & 9 – Fil McIntrye & Neil Beck, Natspec

Understanding young people's needs is critical to identifying the right technology to support them, whether in their learning or in their everyday lives. This workshop will help participants consider the mechanisms and resources needed to ensure that a high-quality assistive technology assessment takes place, so that learners are benefitting from the technology most appropriate to their needs. It will also cover methods for ongoing review to ensure the technology remains appropriate as young people's needs change over time. This workshop will be of interest to delegates with an interest in AT and resource management more generally.

#### Recruiting and retaining staff in the specialist sector

##### Operational

##### Care

##### Workshops 3 & 10 – Sam Munkley, Seashell Trust

Staff recruitment and retention is a key challenge for many providers in the specialist FE sector. How do we attract the right people and once they are in place, how do we hold onto them? In this workshop, Seashell Trust share some of the particular challenges they face and the initiatives they have implemented to address them. Participants will also have the chance to share their own challenges and solutions. This workshop will be relevant for any delegates grappling with recruitment and retention issues.

## Workshop information

### Day 1 – Tuesday 2 April 2019

#### Maximising employment outcomes

Strategic

Operational

Curriculum

#### Workshops 4 & 11 – Kim Everton & Julie Pallister, The Hive College

The Hive College, which has high levels of success in this area, shares its approach to supporting young people into employment. They will be addressing questions such as: how do you staff an organisation to maximise employment outcomes; what resources, facilities and partnerships are needed; how do you build and share a vision and get staff, learners and families to buy into it; what does a work-focused curriculum look like? This workshop will be of particular interest to delegates who are relatively new to post-16/post-19 provision, who are just taking on responsibility for employment-related provision in their setting, or who are looking to improve employment outcomes in their setting.

#### Using student voice to develop the curriculum and drive up quality standards

Operational

Curriculum

#### Workshops 5 & 12 – Sarah Laszlo, Natspec

Given the opportunity and the means, students with SEND can play a critical role in curriculum development and quality improvement. Come and hear from providers who are making effective use of student voice in this way. This workshop will be of interest to anyone interested in harnessing the expertise of students in development and improvement work.

#### Embedding competition activity into the vocational curriculum

Curriculum

#### Workshops 6 & 13 – Louise Keevil, Natspec

Come along and find out how competition activity can be used to strengthen the vocational curriculum, build personal and social skills and help learners on a path to employment. Participants will have the chance to explore a newly developed competition activity toolkit and get practical ideas on how to get started with competition activity. This workshop is suitable for anyone with an interest in enlivening the curriculum through use of competition.



## Workshop information

### Day 1 – Tuesday 2 April 2019

#### **SEND and the law: understanding the rights of young people and families**

**Strategic**

**Operational**

#### **Workshops 7 & 14 – Ali Fiddy, IPSEA**

The Children and Families Act brought in new rights for young people with SEND and their families and new duties for local authorities and providers. It has also resulted in a raft of new systems and processes. How can colleges work effectively with young people, families and local authorities to ensure that young people are benefitting from the new legislation? This workshop will give delegates the opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues, share best practice, and explore key questions with an expert in SEND legislation. It is suitable for participants with a degree of understanding of SEND law – from basic to advanced.



## Workshop information

### Day 2 – Wednesday 3 April 2019

#### Approaches to developing and maintaining staff expertise

Operational

Curriculum

Care

#### Workshops 15 & 22 – Dr Joyce Deere, Natspec

How can providers ensure that staff across their organisation have an appropriate skill-set to meet the needs of the students on roll and the requirements of funding and regulation? How can they make sure that staff knowledge and skills are kept up-to-date? The workshop is suitable for delegates looking for cost-effective approaches to continuous professional development in the specialist FE sector.

#### Strong governance for specialist post-16 providers

Strategic

#### Workshops 16 & 23 – Ruth Thomas, Derwen College

Strong governance underpins high quality provision – but what does it look like in practice for specialist post-16 providers? This workshop revisits the core purpose and functions of governance. It also provides participants with examples of effective working practices and creative solutions to some of the common governance challenges specialist providers face. The workshop will be of particular interest to delegates from organisations who have recently moved into post-16 or post-19 learning and skills provision or who have identified improving governance as a key priority.

#### The place of national/regional providers in a changing landscape

Strategic

#### Workshops 17 & 24 – Kathryn Rudd OBE

With an increasing emphasis on localism in SEND provision, how do specialist colleges who have traditionally operated as national or regional providers find their place? How might their provision need to evolve and how can they best articulate and evidence the contribution they make? In a changing landscape, standing still is not an option. Come along and explore some of the ways forward for national and regional providers.

This workshop will be of particular interest to delegates who have already begun to consider their organisation's future direction and are ready to discuss strategic options with others.

## Workshop information

### Day 2 – Wednesday 3 April 2019

#### **Sport / physical activity and its contribution to personal wellbeing and learning**

Curriculum

Care

#### **Workshops 18 & 25 – Shannon Howarth, AoC Sport**

Sport and physical activity can have a significant impact on young people's mental and physical health. It can also support their personal development and provide an enriching context for developing a wide range of skills. This workshop will explore ways in which colleges can use sport and physical activity to maximum benefit for learners with SEND. It is suitable for delegates interested in strengthening their curriculum offer and for those with responsibility for student welfare.

#### **Introducing RARPA to your staff**

Operational

Curriculum

#### **Workshops 19 & 26 – Pete Vickers, Camphill Wakefield**

Recognising and recording progress and achievement (RARPA) is a key factor in ensuring the quality and relevance of non-accredited learning, but it's not always easy to explain it to staff who are used to a qualification-based curriculum. This workshop provides delegates with a quick refresher on the RARPA process before moving on to engaging ways to explain RARPA to staff, maximise their understanding and get their buy-in, including how to keep the associated admin to a necessary minimum.

This workshop is aimed at delegates with a basic understanding of RARPA who want to share their knowledge with others and get RARPA firmly embedded into their organisations.

## Workshop information

### Day 2 – Wednesday 3 April 2019

#### **Meeting the needs of students with behaviours that challenge: a whole organisational approach**

Operational

Care

#### **Workshops 20 & 27 – Julie Eshleman**

What needs to be in place if a college is to work effectively with students with behaviours that challenge? This workshop will help delegates understand the importance of the physical environment, staffing, values and culture in meeting the needs of this learner group.

It will be of particular interest to people in organisations which are preparing to extend their provision to include students with behaviours that challenge, or which find themselves with increasing numbers of such students on roll. It may also be useful to delegates who want to review the effectiveness of their organisation's existing approaches.

#### **Working in strategic partnership with local authorities**

Strategic

#### **Workshops 21 & 28 – Ellen Atkinson, NDTi**

This workshop will explore how specialist colleges can work in partnership with local authorities (LAs) to contribute to the strategic planning of SEND provision in their local area. Participants will consider how the learning from recent NDTi/Preparing for Adulthood partnership projects could help them to present their existing provision and work with an LA to further develop it, so that it complements the broader local offer for young people with SEND.

This workshop is suitable for delegates with some prior experience of working with local authorities, particularly where they are seeking to move beyond operational interaction to a more strategic partnership.

## Natspec Conference 2019: High Needs, High Aspirations

### Day 1 – Tuesday 2 April 2019

10.00	Arrival, refreshments & registration
10.45	<b>Conference welcome &amp; overview</b>
11.00	<p><b>Keynote session 1 - The wider perspective:</b> learning from other key players in the SEND sector</p> <p><b>Schools:</b> <i>Claire Dorer, NASS</i></p> <p><b>Parents:</b> <i>Sherann Hillman, National Network of Parent Carer Forums</i></p> <p><b>Health:</b> <i>Lorraine Mulroney, NHS England (invited)</i></p> <p>Questions to the speakers</p>
12.00	<p><b>Workshop session A &amp; hot topics</b></p> <p>Choose EITHER one of the workshops OR stay in the main room for the hot topic networking tables. Full descriptions of the workshops can be found at the beginning of this programme.</p>

#### Workshops

1. How can specialist providers demonstrate value for money?	<b>Strategic</b>
2. Assistive technology assessment	<b>Operational Curriculum Care</b>
3. Recruiting and retaining staff in the specialist sector	<b>Operational Care</b>
4. Maximising employment outcomes	<b>Strategic Operational Curriculum</b>
5. Using student voice to develop the curriculum and drive up quality standards	<b>Curriculum Operational</b>
6. Embedding competition activity into the vocational curriculum	<b>Curriculum</b>
7. SEND and the law: understanding the rights of young people and families	<b>Strategic Operational</b>

#### Hot topics

Discussion sessions will be held at facilitated tables in the main room, including topics such as:

- Finance and budgeting
- Social care provision
- PR and marketing
- Working with parents and carers
- Transitions
- Data and MIS
- The Welsh ALN reforms
- Mainstream/ specialist partnerships
- Setting up new provision

...and more





## Natspec Conference 2019: High Needs, High Aspirations Day 1 – Tuesday 2 April 2019

13.15	<p><b>Lunch and informal networking</b></p> <p>Visit the exhibition stands, including Natspec’s helpdesk staffed by members of the Board</p>															
14.30	<p><b>Workshop session 2 and hot topics</b></p> <p>Choose EITHER one of the workshops OR stay in the main room for the hot topic networking tables. Full descriptions of the workshops can be found at the beginning of this programme.</p>															
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15.45	<p><b>Refreshment break</b></p> <p>Exhibition &amp; Networking - visit the exhibition stands and talk to learners from Natspec’s Student Parliament. The Natspec helpdesk will also be open.</p>															

2 & 3 April 2019

Jurys Inn, Hinckley Island, Leicestershire



## Natspec Conference 2019: High Needs, High Aspirations

### Day 1 – Tuesday 2 April 2019

16.15	<b>Keynote session 2</b> SEND and the law: <i>Alison Fiddy, CEO IPSEA</i> Policy development: an update on the latest policy and funding discussions with government – <i>Clare Howard and Ruth Perry, Natspec</i>
17.15	Break and room check in
19.00	<b>Drinks reception</b> Including VIP guest speaker, Maths week & TES winner celebrations
19.45	<b>Dinner</b> Launch of Natspec Awards



## Natspec Conference 2019: High Needs, High Aspirations

### Day 2 – Wednesday 3 April 2019

08.30	Registration for day delegates
09.00	Annual General Meeting: Natspec Members only
09.45	<b>Welcome to day 2</b>
09.50	<p><b>Keynote session 3: “the finest evidence-based practice”</b></p> <p>Cutting edge developments for your cohort of students: speakers from various specialisms share their knowledge</p> <p><i>Martin McLean, National Deaf Children’s Society, Christine-Koulla Burke, Mental Health Foundation, Jon Spiers, Autistica</i></p>
10.45	<p><b>Refreshment break</b></p> <p>Visit the exhibition stands, including Natspec’s helpdesk staffed by members of the Board</p>
11.20	<p><b>Workshop session C</b></p> <p>Choose EITHER one of the workshops OR stay in the main room for the hot topic networking tables. Full descriptions of the workshops can be found at the beginning of this programme.</p> <p><b>Hot topics</b></p> <p>Discussion sessions will be held at facilitated tables in the main room on a range of topics</p>

#### Workshops

15. Approaches to developing and maintaining staff expertise	<b>Operational Strategic</b>
16. Strong governance for specialist post-16 providers	<b>Strategic</b>
17. The place of national/regional providers in a changing landscape	<b>Strategic</b>
18. Sport / physical activity and its contribution to personal wellbeing and learning	<b>Curriculum Care</b>
19. Introducing RARPA to your staff	<b>Curriculum Operational</b>
20. Meeting the needs of students with behaviours that challenge: a whole organisation approach	<b>Care Operational</b>
21. Working in strategic partnership with local authorities	<b>Strategic</b>

## Natspec Conference 2019: High Needs, High Aspirations Day 2 – Wednesday 3 April 2019

12.30	<b>Lunch</b>														
13.45	<p><b>Workshop session D</b></p> <p>Choose EITHER one of the workshops OR stay in the main room for the hot topic networking tables. Full descriptions of the workshops can be found at the beginning of this programme.</p> <p><b>Hot topics</b></p> <p>Discussion sessions will be held at facilitated tables in the main room on a range of topics</p>														
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15.00	<p><b>Keynote Session 4: Ofsted</b></p> <p><i>Suzanne Wainwright HMI, Her Majesty's Inspector, Ofsted</i></p>														
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