



NATIONAL LICENSING “PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS”: Autumn 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

Each **Licensed Awarding Body** operates under a licence with the Consortium.

When we’re appointing and reviewing Licensed Awarding Bodies, the Quality in Careers Consortium Board has established a small team of expert **National Licensing Panel “Professional Advisers”** to assist the **Quality in Careers Director** by providing professional advice to the national licensing panels and to act as the primary link from the national team with their allocated Awarding Bodies.

Working closely with the Quality in Careers Director, our **Professional Advisers**:

- undertake an impartial scrutiny of a potential or an existing Licensed Awarding Body’s application for its licence (whether the initial application or a relicensing) and advise whether to defer or to proceed with convening a national panel;
- produce a preparatory brief for the Director to approve and issue to the panel;
- attend the national panel;
- write the national panel report for the Director to approve and issue to the national panel for confirmation prior to its formal presentation to the Awarding Body;
- undertake annual Continuing Quality Improvement Reviews (CQIRs) with Licensed Awarding Bodies – producing CQIR reports for the Director to approve and issue to the Awarding Body.

2. OUR TEAM OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

(i) ANTHONY BARNES

- Anthony is an independent careers education consultant, trainer and materials developer – well known and highly respected nationally in the careers education world.
- He has written extensively on quality assurance in CEIAG and has experience of developing quality award schemes including the Careers Excellence Award that was used by the VT Careers Management Group before 2003.
- Anthony was a local authority inspector for careers education for seven years.
- He wrote a distance learning pack for Ofsted inspectors on how to inspect careers education and guidance. He also took part in school inspections for Ofsted as a team inspector and in Connexions inspections as an additional inspector.
- Anthony edits the CEGNET website and monthly e-newsletter.

- He was part of the management group for the Government's careers education support programme until 2010.
- He also served as part of the working group convened by the Careers England 'Quality Task Group' to consider the proposals which led to the initial development of the Quality in Careers Standard in 2012.
- Anthony became one of the first to be appointed as a Professional Adviser for Quality in Careers. He is highly experienced and acts as the lead Adviser working with the Director bringing his knowledge and skills to work on the Standard's national criteria, the [Guide to the Standard](#) and the [Assessment Guide](#), as well as undertaking CQIRs with Awarding Bodies and serving as the Professional Adviser on a number of Licensing Panels.

(ii) CLAIRE NIX

- Claire is a qualified careers adviser with over 25 years' experience working as a manager, trainer and consultant in the careers education and guidance sector. She has built a strong national reputation.
- Claire is a Fellow of NICEC. She has also served on the Board of the Career Development Institute.
- She was project manager for the Government's careers education support programme until 2010.
- She led the establishment of the CEGNET website and development of the national resources pack to support statutory careers education. She also led the quality assurance strand for the 3-year national STEM Careers Awareness project.
- Claire has previously had lead responsibility for quality assurance in a range of different businesses and worked with a range of the earlier quality award schemes for CEIAG. She has also led health check and quality audits in individual schools and local authorities and was an additional inspector in Connexions inspections.
- She has also been an external examiner for the QCG course at Canterbury Christ Church.
- Claire joined the Quality in Careers national team in 2014 and, after primarily undertaking CQIRs of Licensed Awarding Bodies, she is fully involved as a national Professional Adviser for Quality in Careers at Licensing Panels for Awarding Bodies.
- She also acts as Organising Secretary for the Quality in Careers Consultative Group which provides the forum for Awarding Bodies to come together to consider shared views on the Standard and assessments.

(iii) ERICA ROWELL

- Erica joins the Professional Team in October 2023 on her retirement from her consultancy (RGG Associates – see below).
- She is a qualified careers adviser with some 30 years' experience as a practitioner, manager, assessor and trainer.
- While working for The Humberside Partnership, Erica was a trainer and assessor for the national pilot for the NVQ Level 4 in Advice and Guidance which became the work-based qualification for careers advisers.
- Having contributed to the creation of the NVQ Advice and Guidance course, alongside lecturers from the University of Huddersfield QCG team, Erica was seconded for two years as a tutor on the University of Huddersfield QCG course.

- With two professional partners, in 2004 Erica set up a careers guidance training consultancy - RGG Associates. Erica has written a number of successful tenders for RGG Associates. The consultancy has worked with careers companies, local authorities, schools, colleges and universities to train and assess careers advisers to achieve professional qualifications in Careers Guidance and Development. More recently she has provided training for the Careers and Enterprise Company.
- Erica developed extensive training resources for RGG Associates including materials for the Level 6 Diploma in Careers Guidance and Development and more recently for the Level 6 Certificate in Careers Leadership.
- She also had responsibility for the OCR assessment centre for RGG Associates and was lead Quality Assurer for the consultancy. As a qualified External Quality Assurer, Erica worked in this role for OCR.
- She recently took up the role of Research Associate (CPD) for the CDI writing a monthly CPD newsletter for practitioners and curating resources for the CDI website.
- For Quality in Careers, Erica will be undertaking assignments, CQIRs and fulfilling the role of Professional Adviser at a number of national Licensing Panels.