



Stand Alone Pledge

18 October 2016

I am writing to commit London Contemporary Dance School to the Stand Alone Pledge. I feel it is important to support students who are studying without the support of a family network because negotiating your way through the challenges of moving to a new city, finding somewhere to live and dealing with the practicalities of looking after yourself is hard enough for all students. For a student with no inbuilt family safety-net is much, much harder. On top of all that, life within a full time conservatoire dance program is time consuming and, inevitably, exhausting at times. We have a responsibility to work with all students, regardless of their home circumstances to ensure that they are in the best possible position to really engage with their chosen vocation.

My institution is currently providing support to students without a family network by giving strong counseling support, the limit of which can be negotiated depending on the individual need of the student. Our institution offers students support in sourcing affordable accommodation and we have the flexibility to work with students on realistic payment plans to ease their way into accommodation. Our access activities have centered on providing support and opportunity for students who may not have the same access to private dance tuition through the government supported Centres for Advanced Training initiative which enables talented students from the age of 11 to access vocational dance education with their peers across England

Over the lifetime of the pledge, I would like our institution to work on internal and external outreach and identification of students for further support. We aim to breaking down the stigma around disclosing difficult family circumstances to staff and support professionals.

The person responsible for overseeing the pledge will be Mark Tyler.

We are really happy to be working with Stand Alone. We think their work will assist our learning and practice in enabling students to access (and successfully complete) their studies, enabling them to thrive in their chosen art form and make a positive contribution to society as a whole through this. We look forward to developing our work through the opportunity to learn from the other partners in this project. We are very grateful that this initiative is taking shape at such a difficult time of uncertainty about the future.

Professor Veronica Lewis MBE

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