

Stand Alone
34B York Way
London N1 9AB

23rd January 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

The University of Huddersfield has a long and successful track record of widening access and enabling all who will benefit from higher education to participate and flourish. The Stand Alone Pledge, integrates with our existing support and enables us to enhance our work supporting estranged students.

We have mapped our current support and confirm the following arrangements to support estranged students:

Finance and on course support

- We provide information, advice and support to estranged students on how to apply for funding and independent status through SFE.
- Dedicated support and guidance through a named student services contact is provided from prior to application, to admission, through to graduation.
- All estranged students can access mentoring support.

Accommodation

- We work with estranged students to support them in finding accommodation to suit their needs.
- We work with accommodation providers and the Students' Union lettings service to ensure affordable access to accommodation outside term time and will help estranged students with specific arrangements around deposits and guarantors.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- We provide named contacts for estranged students within the Student Wellbeing Service.
- We provide a wide range of mental health groups and workshops including a Trans *student support group.
- We are working in partnership with the SU to develop support for estranged students.
- We organise social activities for estranged students and ensure that students are supported with referrals to relevant local support groups and external agencies.

Outreach and Transition

- We will continue to target young people estranged from their families within widening participation outreach programmes and bespoke activities.
- We will continue to assist and support young people estranged from their families through the university application process and provide specific programmes and activities designed to help with their transition into University life

Our Development Priorities

In addition to the above we will work towards the following:

- Prioritising estranged student access to the £1000 University of Huddersfield scholarship in first year of study, currently focused upon for students with a household income below £25000 and 120 UCAS points or above.
- Priority access to the student hardship fund for estranged students.
- Raising awareness across the University of the issues experienced by estranged students, we will extend our training and briefing activities and consider establishing 'champions' across all academic schools.
- Continuously improving our specific information for estranged students ensuring it is easily accessible on our website and promoted to estranged students and appropriate networks.
- Develop events for Virtual Heads within the region to promote the opportunities that Higher Education offers to estranged students and care leavers and improve transitions.

We believe the established activity and development priorities evidence our longstanding commitment and align with condition B2 of the Office for Students regulatory framework that *"The provider must provide all students, from admission through to completion, with the support that they need to succeed in and benefit from higher education"*

Yours sincerely



Professor Bob Cryan CBE DL CMgr CCMi FEng
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive