

Stand Alone  
34B York Way  
London  
N1 9AB

7<sup>th</sup> January 2020

### **University Centre Leeds' commitment to the Stand Alone Pledge**

At University Centre Leeds (part of Leeds City College) we are proud of our supportive environment, ensuring students receive personalised support and providing all students the opportunity to reach their full potential. We commit to supporting students who are estranged from their families, studying without the support of a family network. We commit to the Stand Alone Pledge by the following:

#### **Finance:**

To help support new students who are estranged from their families to start full time higher education at University Centre Leeds we offer the following financial support:

- Bursary (up to £1000 awarded by University Centre Leeds);
- Supporting the cost of interview travel and/or on-course materials (where applicable – up to 50% of costs);
- Supporting the cost of graduation gown hire and photographs (up to 50% of costs).

We will also provide advice to estranged students on what funding and associated benefits are available to them and support with applying for them.

#### **Accommodation:**

We will work to develop links with accommodation providers who will be flexible about the need for a guarantor.

#### **Mental health and wellbeing:**

We will provide estranged students:

- Designated support from the HE Counselling and Mental Health Officer and/or student Counsellor.
- Nominated support from the University Centre Leeds HE Welfare and Student Engagement Officer and /or a Named contact from within the Safeguarding Team;
- Buddying and/or mentoring schemes.

There will be continued dissemination to, and training of, appropriate staff working with estranged students, so that they have the knowledge and understanding to support and provide guidance.

#### **Outreach and transition:**

We will tailor our messages to include ones which estranged students will find supportive.

We will also communicate the support available to estranged students via our work with school, colleges, community organisations, and other external partners, and on our website.

To help estranged students make informed decisions about their future, higher education and degree choices, and their higher education application, we can offer:

- Personalised tours;
- Foster Family / Care Experienced Taster Days;
- 1:1 Application support;
- Contextual admissions.

We are proud to be associated with Stand Alone and welcome the opportunity to sign this pledge to ensure that estranged students are fully supported in making informed choices. We look forward to working with Stand Alone and in supporting estranged students throughout their higher education journey.

Yours sincerely



Janet Faulkner  
Dean of Higher Education



A member of Luminare Education Group

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**Janet Faulkner**  
Dean of Higher Education

**University Centre**  
Park Lane  
Leeds LS3 1AA

**General enquiries**  
0113 235 4450  
admissions@ucleeds.ac.uk