

5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am pleased to confirm Edge Hill University's support for the Stand Alone Pledge. As a university we are committed to supporting students from a range of backgrounds, we understand that estranged students can often face additional barriers and challenges to and within higher education. In support of these students we have committed to offering the below:

### **Student Support**

- A named contact for students who identify as estranged, who students can contact for advice and guidance, both pre-entry and when on course.
- A CARE Facebook group that provides an online community for those students who wish to engage.
- Our 'thinking of leaving service' which identifies and supports all students including estranged students, who may be at risk of withdrawing. Students can self-refer or be referred to this service.
- Students with additional needs or disabilities can access support through the Inclusion team for a range of support needs.
- All students have access to academic skills support available via our Library and Learning Services Teams.
- All students have access to a range of social activities, including events run by student 'Campus Connectors'.

### **Accommodation**

- Students who are estranged can request a contract for a room in the University halls of residence for 365 days a year, for the three years of their degree.
- Students who are estranged can request an early move into halls and midweek move in dates to accommodate students who may be leaving local authority care. If their room is not available alternative options on campus will be considered to support the student's need for housing prior to start of course.
- Students can leave belongings in their halls of residence room if they're not staying over the summer and are returning to the same room in September.

### **Finance**

- The Money Advice Team have a broad offer of financial advice, guidance and support for all students at Edge Hill.
- Students can access the discretionary fund for financial support if needed over the summer period for accommodation costs.

## **Mental health and Well-being**

- The Wellbeing & Counselling team is here to support students' health and wellbeing needs throughout their time at Edge Hill. They offer emotional and practical support and can also help students access other services that may be relevant.

## **Applicant Outreach**

- We offer bespoke visits to campus, which can include one to one or small group visits as required.
- We offer one to one or small group support to students for Personal Statements, interview and application form preparation.
- We are available to speak to students on exam results day and post results day to discuss next steps.

We are also in the process of developing additional support for our estranged students, which includes:

- Exploring additional financial support for our estranged students.
- Staff development- a new toolkit and training package is in development for all staff that utilises national and Edge Hill research regarding support for 'Students without Family Support' (care leavers, care experienced and estranged students).
- Further developing our outreach offer, enhancing our pre-entry support for estranged students.
- Developing and advertising optional bespoke support to assist students without family support on campus arrival and departure days.
- Developing bespoke additional support where need is identified (i.e. within the Careers Service or Money Advice Team)
- Establishing a Students Without Family Support Advisory Panel (in line with other Student Panels being created to support our Access and Participation Plan work). This panel will be a mechanism to consult with our students about how to deliver the support we offer.
- Developing a guide that uses accessible language and clearly communicates our offer of support to applicants and existing students.
- Developing and advertising optional graduation support, including the offer of a member of staff attending the student's graduation ceremony.

We are pleased to be submitting our Pledge and look forward to working with Stand Alone as we continue to further develop our support for estranged students.

Yours sincerely,



Lynda Brady

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience) & University Secretary