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Vice-Chancellor

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Wednesday, 19 April 2017

Stand Alone
34B York Way
London N1 9AB

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: The Stand Alone Pledge

The University of Portsmouth's commitment to widening participation is reaffirmed in our new Strategy 2015-2020 which confirms our ongoing commitment to inclusivity and improving social mobility through raising expectations and creating ladders of opportunity for people to take part in higher education.

As part of this commitment we are delighted to be taking the Stand Alone Pledge to demonstrate the comprehensive support we offer for students who are studying without the support of a stable family network.

We understand these students often experience additional challenges and as such we have developed a tailored package which will provide assistance through additional financial support, assistance securing accommodation and ensuring mental health and wellbeing are also considered.

The University representative responsible for overseeing the pledge will be Rachael Lyons, Head of Student Finance.

I am pleased to advise that our experienced teams have put in place the following initiatives:

Finance

- A bursary of £750 per year for all undergraduate estranged students
- A transitional bursary of £750 to support students trying to prove estrangement
- Students given priority for Summer Funding to support rent and living costs

Student Housing

- will provide access to year round accommodation in halls of residence accommodation, particularly ensuring accommodation is available over the summer vacation where required
- ensure access to University halls without a guarantor, and to work with accommodation providers in the city around the issue of guarantors and deposits
- ensure access to a Student Support Manager whether in halls or private housing throughout their time as a student.

Student Wellbeing Service

- An initial meeting with a wellbeing adviser who could act as that person's named point of contact with the service throughout their time at the University.
- Short-term focused interventions and no cap on access to further episodes of support if needed.
- Signposting to local IAPT service, Talking Change, to ensure that students can easily access these services.



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Taking The Pledge is a starting point for our institution and we will continue to review our provision within our Outreach and Transition work to ensure this group of vulnerable students are not deterred from entering HE and are supported to achieve all they can whilst they study with us.

We will continue to work with Stand Alone and our local networks to ensure we understand the needs of these learners and identify best practice across the sector so we might further develop the support provided at the University of Portsmouth.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Galbraith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Graham Galbraith
Vice-Chancellor