



# Ravensbourne

Ravensbourne  
6 Penrose Way  
London SE10 0EW

8<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Dear Susan,

## The Stand Alone Pledge for Estranged Students and Ravensbourne

With a strong Widening Participation and Access background, Ravensbourne understands the challenges that estranged students often face in successfully completing a course of study. Our Student Services Team continue to work hard to support students so that difficult circumstances do not become a barrier to learning. Stand Alone has been a large contributing factor to our inclusion of assistance through various scaffolding strands such as specific funding, application to grants and help with accommodation costs. In 2014/15, Ravensbourne committed a proportion of our annual budget to create a financial provision for Care Leavers and estranged students.

We are proud to join Stand Alone and other HE institutions in being part of creating a more equal and inclusive learning environment. Ravensbourne are best placed to do this because we already strongly advocate for supporting students without the support of a family network. It is an important mission of the entire institution to ensure we help supply the tools so that estranged students - and all students - can fulfil their potential and make the most of all that the learning experience can offer.

We are committed to the Pledge and fully support such a significant step in improving the lives of estranged students. We look forward to working with Stand Alone to further develop and enhance our provision in important areas including retention, finance support, accommodation and access to wellbeing services.

With members of the National Association of Student Money Advisers and links with the National Strategy for Financial Capability Steering Committee, we are also keen to encourage as many institutions as we can to see the wide reaching benefits of joining the Pledge, and ensure that Stand Alone are able to elevate a message of support to as wide a community as possible.

Best Wishes

Professor Linda Drew  
Director, Ravensbourne