

## STAND ALONE PLEDGE – KIRKLEES COLLEGE SUPPORTING ESTRANGED STUDENTS

Kirklees College's mission statement is Creating Opportunity, Changing Lives, and this underpins our ethos as a college community.

Our core purpose is to support the education and development of all our students to enable them to maximise their potential and progress positively as respectful and productive members of their communities.

Young people of 16-24, who are estranged from their families, are more likely to experience disadvantage in education and are at increased risk of homelessness, social isolation, exploitation and financial difficulty.

Kirklees College is strongly committed to the Stand Alone Pledge and recognises the support estranged students may need to manage and overcome the challenges they face.

We will:

- Ensure that safeguarding measures are in place to protect students estranged from their families, with appropriate advice and guidance, so that they feel and are safe.
- Make necessary referrals to external agencies so that all available support is understood and accessible, including housing and health and wellbeing.
- Assess each case to ensure the necessary financial support is offered wherever possible, including hardship funds and vulnerable bursary.
- Signpost estranged students to internal and external support pathways for mental health issues, including counselling, 1:1 meetings, chaplaincy listening services and pastoral support.
- Identify and promote contact details for specific staff within the Faculty of Student Experience as the key points of contact for estranged students.
- Ensure that all staff are aware of the challenges and vulnerabilities faced by estranged students and the referral pathways available to them.
- Work in partnership with the Students' Union to positively promote the pledge and organise relevant and meaningful activities in support of the pledge.
- Work in partnership with schools to ensure early identification of estranged applicants and offer appropriate support through application, enrolment and induction to ensure a supported transition.
- Include in our prospectus specific information for students studying without the support or approval of their family network.
- Establish a 2-year action plan, monitored by the College's Equality Diversity and Inclusion Strategy Group, to include a process for identification and progress monitoring to ensure estranged students are not disadvantaged and can thrive at Kirklees College.

We are proud to sign this pledge and to work in partnership with Stand Alone and Go Higher West Yorkshire in support for our estranged students.



College Principal.