



Staffordshire University
Leek Road
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ST4 2DE

Susan Mueller
Director, Higher Education and Projects
Stand Alone Charity

8 March 2024

Dear Susan

Stand Alone 'Legacy' Pledge

I am delighted to be writing to you to give our commitment to the Stand Alone 'Legacy' Pledge. We value greatly the work Stand Alone has done to support young people estranged from their families and the support Stand Alone have offered to Universities and Colleges to ensure greater awareness, inclusion, and support.

We recognise the absolute importance of expert services and accessible support for underrepresented and vulnerable students. We have a long and proud record of raising aspirations, attainment, and in supporting our students to fulfil their potential.

Our Pledge Commitments:

In committing to the Stand Alone 'Legacy' Pledge, we continue to focus on further developing our support provision across the four priority areas identified as barriers to success. The below, outlines our commitment across all areas of the pledge. In addition, we will work with estranged students studying at Staffordshire University to review the value of this offer and to make changes where it is deemed necessary and important.

Outreach:

Where students are estranged from their families, we will support them in making informed decisions about their future. We continue to be committed to developing a greater awareness as to the support we provide.

Money and Finance:

We continue to pledge to offer estranged students dedicated financial advice and support (including our new free Budgeting Workshops) from our Student Support & Experience (Money & Guidance) Team, and priority access to our Student Support & Experience (Hardship) Fund for the duration of their course. We continue to work hard to raise awareness of part time work opportunities and support estranged students to secure and succeed with these opportunities.

We will continue to work with our estranged students at our 'Refreshed' Focus Groups and provide a monthly newsletter with important news and updates.

We will continue to send birthday and Christmas cards to our estranged students.

We will ensure that estranged students have guaranteed access to university accommodation, 365 days a year, and for the duration of their time studying at the University.

We will continue to offer our Undergraduate estranged students a bursary for each year of study.

Mental Health and Wellbeing:

Within our Money & Guidance Team, we have two named support contacts for estranged students who are accessible to deliver information, advice, and support at any stage of the student experience.

We also continue to have a dedicated named contact in our Student Wellbeing & Safeguarding Team and will ensure that students are provided with information about Counselling and Wellbeing services available within the University, and externally.

We remain committed to developing our communities understanding of the challenges and barriers experienced by estranged students. We continue to achieve this through delivery of training and provision of information to all staff.

Our commitment to the pledge will be overseen by Christina Matthews, Executive Director, Student and Academic Services who will be supported by colleagues and services from across our community.

We are very proud to be signing the Stand Alone 'Legacy' Pledge and hope that this commitment and the efforts of our community will encourage more estranged students to identify themselves, access our services and reach their potential.

We remain proactive in developing our support and services for estranged students moving forward.

Kind regards



Professor Annabel Kiernan
Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic)