

NNECL

National Network for the
Education of Care Leavers

**Good Practice Guide for institutions
with Care Experienced and Estranged
Students during Covid-19**

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Terms and Definitions

We are aware that different institutions use a number of terms and definitions for all manor of Care Experienced students. For the sake of clarity we will be using the following throughout our guide:

Term	Definition
Care Leavers	<p>The level of support young people receive from leaving care teams depends on their status as care leavers. Definitions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible child – a child aged 16 and 17 who has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who is being looked after. • Relevant child – a child aged 16 and 17 who has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who has left care. This also includes young people who were detained (e.g. in a youth offending institution or hospital) when they turned 16, but immediately before that were looked after. • Former relevant child – a young person over 18 who was previously ‘eligible’ or ‘relevant’. Local authorities support this group at least until age 21 or until 25 if in education or training. Persons qualifying for advice and assistance – any young person under 21 (or 24 if in education or training) who ceases to be looked after or accommodated in a variety of other settings, or privately fostered, after the age of 16. This also includes young people who are under a special guardianship order. • Young people who return home – a young person’s status as a care leaver can change if they leave care and return home to live with their birth family. A 16 or 17-year-old who has lived for a continuous period of six months with a parent or someone with parental responsibility will not be a relevant child, even if they fit the criteria above. However, if this arrangement breaks down before they turn 18 and the young person ceases to live with the person concerned they would again become a relevant child.
Care Experienced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The term “care experienced” refers to anyone who has been, or is currently in care. This care may have been provided in many different settings, such as: Kinship care – living with a relative who is not your mum or dad.
Estranged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estranged students are aged 18 to 24 and are not communicating with either of their parents due to an irreconcilable breakdown in the relationship with them. Estranged students often also lack the support of their wider family. Individuals may be estranged and are living independently before entering higher education or may become estranged during their studies.
CEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone care experienced and/or estranged

Good Practice Guide History

Following on from the Office for Students briefing on the needs of students without family support during the Covid-19 crisis we have created a Good Practice Guide for institutions with Care Experienced and Estranged Students during Covid-19

Thank you to everyone that has submitted information to us. We hope that this guide will showcase the amazing work already taking place, help to inform future practice within institutions, and provide information for local authority colleagues to learn more about the support on offer for their young people.

This is a working guide so please do let us know of any changes or updates, and if you haven't submitted to us yet, please do, we welcome all institutions, members and non members work to be included: info@nnecl.org

It is important to note that this guide is related to work surrounding Covid-19 support and that this support may differ to institutions offers during normal times.

A message from our lovely colleagues at Stand Alone regarding Estranged Students during the pandemic

The Covid 19 pandemic has enhanced the practical challenges estranged students face to progress to and succeed at higher education in terms of finance, accommodation, academic study, graduation and beyond. And for many, social distancing measures during the lockdown have exacerbated feelings of stigma, loneliness, isolation, the pressures of self-reliance, have impacted on many individual students' levels of stress, anxiety, motivation and have created rising uncertainty about their future.

The HE sector recognises that there are students who are independent and do not have a parental emotional and financial safety-net to fall back on in times of crisis such as Covid 19 and that they often rely on their higher education provider for assistance to see them through. Universities and colleges across the UK, many of which have signed the Stand Alone Pledge commitment, have worked hard to reached out to these students during the Covid 19 lockdown making available a range of support measures to them.

The examples of best practice in this NNECL Guide show the depth and spread of support higher education providers already had in place and have newly developed specifically for Covid 19 for students without family support. Many may not yet have in place provision specifically for estranged students so it is good to bear in mind that as the needs of estranged students are similar to those of care leavers and care experienced students all of these groups will benefit from the support on offer if they are given the opportunity to access it.

Susan Mueller, Stand Alone



Student Loans Company

Advice for practitioners, incoming and continuing students

As I am sure you can imagine, The Student Loan Company are inundated with questions and queries. The SLC have helpfully created this FAQ page where its is likely that you will find an answer to either yours, or your students queries: <https://www.heinfo.slc.co.uk/engagement/hep-news/faq-covid-19.aspx#Courses%20and%20term%20dates>

It is important that students continue to apply for their finance through SLC within the deadline: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance>

If you are not yet in touch with your SLC Regional Funding Manager and if you wish to receive future updates from SLC please use the following link to get in touch: <https://www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/about-us/funding-information-partners-account-managers/>

Bath Spa University

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £1,000 Care Leaver bursary available, plus priority consideration for University Access Fund. Support offered with applying for Student Finance as a Care Leaver, as well as strategies to budget and manage money.
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point of contact within Student Wellbeing Services, who can offer advice and guidance, and signpost to necessary services. Ability to access support from Mental Health practitioners.
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guaranteed year-round accommodation for Care Leavers within University managed accommodation. University is part of Unite Foundation Scholarship scheme.
Assessment and Progression:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point of contact checks results each year, and can offer guidance on progression. Student Wellbeing Services can also liaise with tutors/academic staff to request reasonable adjustments where appropriate.
Pre-Entry/Outreach:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants who are identified as Care Leavers are contacted at various points prior to enrolment. Guidance is offered around Student Finance, Unite Foundation (if applicable) and support available at Bath Spa. Students are given a number of opportunities to declare prior to enrolment and throughout their studies.
Transitional:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are offered the opportunity to move into University accommodation early if required, and to attend a transition event. Designated point of contact will contact the student once enrolled, to offer guidance and check-in.
Graduation and Beyond:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discounted graduation robes.
Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaison with local authority to ensure smooth transition to and from University, and appropriate support can be put in place.
Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular contact points throughout the year from point of contact within Student Wellbeing Services. Student can contact their named person directly if additional support is needed.
Clearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If any applicant declares Care Leaver status through clearing their point of contact within Student Wellbeing Services will introduce themselves and offer any useful guidance.

Brunel University

Financial Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2000 a year bursary for eligible students • Highlight to Hardship Funds • The student has increased funds for students experiencing hardship. • Summer Bursary for eligible students • Care Leaver Ambassadors have opportunity to work at virtual events.
Emotional Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-mail to all students about support services available to them • Online video appointments /and or phone calls • Regular updated communications for student • Support for those on campus • Professional Mentoring continuing during Covid 19 students can participate in the Brunel widening access professional mentoring scheme, which links students with a business mentor.
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guaranteed year round campus accommodation for care leavers and estranged. • Accommodation deposit waiver • An On-Campus Accommodation Package, consisting of a deposit waiver for enrolled students who wish to live on campus, and a Moving In Starter Pack, or a voucher towards this. • Brunel is part of the Unite Foundation Scholarship Scheme
Assessment and Progression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teaching has moved online for the rest of 2019/20. • Laptops have been loaned to students who have indicated inadequate resource • Learning resources are available on line • Academic Skills Tutors and Course Staff are still available for students to arrange appointments with in this time/are being proactive where students require academic support. • Access2Read vouchers are available to all care experienced and estranged each year of study to enable students to access course materials.
Outreach/pre entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach has moved to on-line/phone • A virtual summer school has been scheduled involving care leaver ambassadors and children in care. The children will be receiving project boxes. • Brunel get ready for university a free 8 week programme https://www.brunel.ac.uk/study/get-u-ready • During clearing and results week Karen Western will be available to talk to students and staff who have concerns about their results or their HE choices. Please e-mail to request a phone call or virtual meeting.

Graduation and Beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to attend external wellbeing and professional development events. • The Graduation Support Package; free photography and cap and gown rentals for our graduates. • Support with Employment and Career Opportunities; receive careers support from the Drive Forward University Partnerships Project • Brunel Professional Development Centre is available to graduates beyond university.
Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources shared with virtual schools and Leaving Care teams in local boroughs. • Information advice and guidance is available to local authorities and meetings are organised through platforms of choice to enable virtual meetings to take place.
Contact	<p>Karen.Western@brunel.ac.uk for all enquiries pre university including access advice</p> <p>Patricia.dore@brunel.ac.uk for current Brunel students</p>

Cardiff University

Financial Support:	Access to Hardship funds or alternative- CEES are prioritised.
Emotional Support:	Email reminder to all CEES students about support services available to them. Phone call to all CEES students/or those esp vulnerable to check in, and will maintain contact. Linking and prioritising CEES students for support through our Counselling Health and Wellbeing services.” MS Teams group established to facilitate peer to peer support Virtual “coffee and catch up” sessions on Zoom organised throughout the summer.
Accommodation:	Extending accommodation leases- or releasing from accommodation early . Supporting students to remain in University accommodation over the summer if they need to and providing additional financial support to students for their summer accommodation cost.
Contact:	Einir: EnglandE1@cardiff.ac.uk

De Montfort University

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight access to Hardship funds or alternative. • Sending supermarket/ food vouchers or small electronic transfers for food for those that need it. • Reassurance about owed bursary payments, or any student finance payments • £1000 summer payments where CEES have a tenancy
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email reminder to all CEES students about support services available to them. • Online video appointments and/or phone calls with student support teams. • Virtual support networks for students on campus . • Possibility of a student initiated support group. • Phone calls and welfare checks to all CL/ES students
Graduation and Beyond:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final year virtual ‘workshop’ covering aspects of moving on from university incl. PG Study, Housing, benefits etc • £1000 Graduation Bursary • £1000 PG bursary if progressing to a course at DMU • Generic Graduate Champions scheme https://www.dmu.ac.uk/dmu-students/careers-and-employability/internships/internships.aspx#GraduateChampions which provides paid work to graduates who haven’t managed to find work some months after graduating.
Contact:	Melissa: MPage@dmu.ac.uk

First Star Scholars

Pre-Entry/ Outreach	<p>In response to Covid -19 we are also opening our Virtual Academy to support more looked after young people and give them access to our diploma curriculum programmes, all with the aim of supporting their engagement in education, whatever their setting.</p> <p>First Star does not judge on current academic progress as placement moves and young people's life circumstance affect this, we don't judge on attendance, looking instead to make a difference and fill the gaps supporting those who can and should aspire to HE but often don't yet know it.</p>
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Greater Brighton Metropolitan College

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A C19 Emergency Learner Fund for MET Learners who need equipment or materials either to help them with their current course or to aid their progression to university is launching next week. Learners apply to the fund and are then assessed by a pastoral mentor to determine exactly what they need. This is open to care leavers, LAC, students with a social worker, students with an EHCP, students in receipt of a bursary and UniConnect students
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email reminder to all CEES students about support services available to them. • Online video appointments and/or phone calls with student support teams
Pre Entry/Outreach:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of online masterclasses in the creative industries, care experienced young people aged 16-19 both in the college and the local community given priority to sign up • Working with the Brighton and Hove Foster Carer Association to design bespoke online masterclasses and HEIAG for young people in their network
Contact:	Rosie Jones Rosie.Jones@GBMC.ac.uk

Greater Manchester Uni connect

Greater Manchester Higher is one of 29 Uni Connect partnerships funded by the OfS to provide higher education outreach to young people across England.

Emotional Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During the pandemic, the partnership is diversifying its offer to ensure that care experienced and estranged young people can access wider information and guidance as well as more specialised provision.• The partnership is continuing to provide impartial advice on its website, which has been restructured to highlight the support available for care experienced and estranged students at universities and colleges in the local area
Outreach/Pre-entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A lot of existing outreach provision has been moved online• The partnership is aiming to help as many care experienced students and their supporters as possible throughout this time and is liaising with local authorities and third sector bodies to signpost them to the higher education and outreach opportunities available to young care experienced people.
Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consulted with local authorities and drawn on the experience of staff who are care leavers to identify what is most needed at this time.

Kingston University

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight access to Hardship funds or alternative. KU Cares have worked with the University's Development and Alumni Relations team to fundraise additional funds to support KU Cares Students who have been affected financially by the pandemic • Reassurance about owed bursary payments, or any student finance payments. • Delivering food packages to vulnerable students needing to isolate.
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email reminder to all CEES students about support services available to them • Online video appointments and/or phone calls with student support team • The University's Wellbeing Team is offering Skype listening service to students, and is developing a guide with resources to support students. • The University's Wellbeing Team is offering Skype listening service to students, and has developed a guide with resources to support students, which is regularly updated.
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who left university halls of residence before the 27th March, will not be invoiced for the third instalment of rent. Any students who paid in advance will be refunded. • Students who are staying on in halls will only be invoiced for 50% of the rent for this final instalment. • KU Cares students who need a room in halls from June will be housed. • We are covering the cost of estranged students on KU Cares with summer • Accommodation in our halls of residence. Students living privately are encouraged to access additional funding opportunities (mentioned above). • For care leavers, we will advocate with their local authority to ensure that they are meeting their statutory duties regarding accommodation
Pre- Entry/Outreach:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the scheme to local authorities, carers' networks, organisations that might engage with our potential groups. • Emailing students who ticked the Care Leaver box on UCAS. • Anyone that signs up to the scheme, we're offering 1:1 IAG through Skype calls or email (depending on what queries the student has). • The University is also preparing the Head Start transitional summer programme to be delivered virtually.
Graduation and beyond:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final year students who are care leavers or estranged are eligible for a graduation bursary (£1000) to help with the transition out of Kingston (accommodation deposit, travel etc.), and they are priority for the University's Careers Team's Grad Support Package (which is essentially intensive work with an advisor to support students into graduate-level employment). KU Cares staff are offering 1:1 outduction meetings to support this transition.
Contact:	Beth Taswell: B.Taswell@kingston.ac.uk

Leeds Trinity University

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £1,000 bursary per year of study + £50 Morrison's voucher in Year 1
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-site counselling service Student Advisor drop in service Coffee/chat with care leaver contact on request
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority for accommodation places and 365 day accommodation Care leaver contact available on moving in day Help moving in
Pre-Entry/Outreach:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bespoke visits from Year 7 upwards Travel and accommodation (where needed) paid for to attend interview / applicant visit Projects with Bradford and Leeds LAs (inc. Leeds Youth Justice Service) Access to Contextual Admissions Scheme (Reward Scheme Residential)
Transitional:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Pack for new care leaver, care experienced and estranged students (stationery, reusable cup, study skills handbook, handwritten card, £5 voucher for University café) Appointment with Learning Hub in Intro Week to assess study skills and create action plans where needed
Graduation and Beyond:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free graduation gown hire and reduced rate photography. Vouchers (this year £50 Love2Shop and £20 Just Eat) Support from Careers Team for up to 2 years after graduation
Contact	Gillian Elvidge

Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care leavers bursary of £1000. See https://www.lipa.ac.uk/applying/finance/student-finance-and-bursaries Students experiencing financial difficulties signposted to hardship funds, which are administered by validating partner, LJMU.
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students with identified needs contacted to ascertain more information about lockdown circumstances (e.g. if with others who can offer levels of support). Email reminder to all CEES students about support services available. Student support teams offering video and/or phone call appointments Programme of online social and wellbeing events for all students organised throughout the week by our Student Events Board.
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LIPA does not have its own accommodation. We have been liaising with the larger accommodation providers which house many of our students. In many cases, these have agreed some flexibility around contracts (such as earlier finish). A wider umbrella organisation, Liverpool Student Homes, provide support for many Liverpool based students with private landlords. All local HEIs have been in conversation with them around accommodation issues, though any additional support may depend upon individual landlord.
Assessment and Progression:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All teaching has moved online for the rest of 2019/20. Laptops have been loaned to students who have indicated inadequate resource. Our IT and TEL teams are providing support for both students accessing online delivery and staff delivering this during this period. Many of our wider learning resources (for example, library journals) are already accessible online and work is underway to make more similar resources available remotely. Learning Guidance Tutors and Course Staff are still available for students to arrange appointments with in this time/are being proactive where students are needing academic support.
Pre Entry/Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WP outreach offer moved online, including continuing online workshops and talks for partner schools/colleges and similar bespoke requests from other schools/colleges/organisations. Year 10/11 programme and Year 12 summer school (Get Set) being delivered online in July and August. Both opportunities are aimed at groups including care leavers. WP social media channels (instagram.com/lipawp, facebook.com/LIPAWP) promoting outreach opportunities and signposting IAG provision.
Transitional:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any remaining auditions were taken place through Skype interviews or additional online submissions. Summer open days (15 June, 27 June) being delivered virtually. See lipa.ac.uk
Graduation and Beyond:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our vocational training is specifically aimed at preparing students for industry. Masterclasses and opportunities to speak to graduates have been part of an ongoing offer to students during the period impacted by Covid-19.
Contact:	General enquiries: reception@lipa.ac.uk

Newcastle University

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In most cases Care Leavers are eligible for the Opportunity Scholarship but there is an additional Care Leaver Bursary for students who don't fit the criteria for the Opportunity Scholarship. Further information about the financial support on offer can be found here: https://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/finance/scholarships/ Participation Bursary of £200 offered by Newcastle University Students' Union. All Care Leavers are automatically eligible for this. Further information about this bursary can be found here: https://www.nusu.co.uk/getinvolved/bursaries/ Free Freshers' week wristband.
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care leavers are offered support via Student Wellbeing, further details of the support offered can be found here: https://www.ncl.ac.uk/wellbeing/
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended accommodation is available on request for care leavers with earlier start dates if needed
Pre-Entry/ Outreach:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aspiration-raising events from Year 5 to Year 13, focusing on providing information on university life, developing skills for university and supporting successful transition. Care experienced students are fast-tracked onto those events that use eligibility criteria to select students, such as residential visits. The Choices Together programme, organised as part of the Raising Aspirations Partnership (a partnership of the five North East universities). This is a programme of events/workshops aimed specifically at care experienced students in Years 10 and 11. The partnership also now delivers a range of Foster Family Fun Days for Looked after Young People in Years 7 to 9, and a Conference for foster carers and other people who work with young people in care.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

<p>Transitional:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A named University contact who can arrange personalised pre-entry meetings and campus visits, signposting to the range of support available, and information regarding the University's financial packages • Individual, informal support offered at each of the University's three annual open days. • Newcastle University's PARTNERS Programme supported entry route is automatically extended to all home students who indicate that they have experienced care for a period of longer than three months. This entitles the student to a lower offer for their course and provides them with the additional support offered by an Academic Summer School. The event is completely free of charge - accommodation and meals are provided for the duration of the Summer School, and transport is organised or reimbursed. Further information about PARTNERS can be found here: https://www.ncl.ac.uk/schools/partners/#whatispartners
<p>Graduation and Beyond:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A graduation package, including free gown hire, photo package and additional guest tickets. • Our University Careers Service also offer advice and guidance to all students during their degree and up to three years after they graduate. This wide range of support includes appointments with a Careers Adviser available every week day without the need for an appointment. The Careers Service also run regular events and workshops aimed at helping students to market their skills and develop their knowledge in areas such as CV writing and interview preparation. There are also lots of online resources aimed at helping students with their career development including a database of hundreds of graduate job vacancies, work experience placements and internships, with around 75 new jobs advertised every week. Further information about the Careers Service can be found here: https://www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/

Plymouth Marjon University

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEES Students are given a grant (£1,000 for Estranged & £2,000 for CL). This is usually provided during the Summer Term to ensure they are financially support throughout this break away from study. However, due to the current challenges, students have been allowed to access this grant early so that they are supported. • We have also provided a new emergency loan for all students who may be struggling at this time, and increased the awareness of the Hardship Fund should anyone need financial aid.
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have increased the number of slots available to seek support and talk, as well as increasing the signposting through all social media channels to reach as many students as possible. • Our CEES students receive bi-weekly emails which signposts someone to talk to if they need any support, either internally or externally. • The Students' Union incoming Deputy President has started a new forum called 'The Listening Post'. This is led by students for students and is aimed at continuing a dialogue similar to that of 'normal' daily university life. This could be from essay support, accommodation and financial help, or even just to talk about how their day is going. The interest from all students to get involved (to both listen and talk) has been positively received.
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEES Students have been welcomed to remain on campus for the rest of term, and into the Summer Term and holiday. • We are aware that domestic cases have risen since lockdown began and we have been able to our Care Experienced students in relocating to a safer and supportive environment. • The Students' Union have been in conversation with the local council and housing associations to consider releasing students from their contracts early. This has been successful for a few; however, the Students' Union are still having daily conversations to help students who may be struggling. • For CEES students and students who do not have a home to go to, if they are allowed out of their external housing contracts, Marjon will look to allocate an on-campus room so that they are safe and supported.
Assessment and Progression:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all students, we have highlighted our extenuating circumstances route should anyone require any assessment extension. Prior to leaving and closing campus, all students had the opportunity to book/loan out equipment so that they could continue their assessments from home. They were all equipped with detailed instructions on how to access and use our new online virtual learning platform. • Since the closure commenced, students have had compulsory one on ones with their personal development tutors, checking in with their general wellbeing and their academic work
Pre Entry/Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marjon has recently joined UniBuddy on UCAS and on our main website. We have increased the amount of 'buddies' (current students) across our site covering more courses and uni life concerns; accommodation, finance, employment and on our CEES students page.

Transitional:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment have been providing virtual applicant days to give prospective students the same opportunity as previous students to get to know their course, lecturers and meet other students who are on that course. This includes virtual campus tours, led by students, to keep the experience of an applicant as close to standard practice. • Albeit now virtual, the Outreach team have continued to plan, attend and provide knowledge, awareness and resources to our partnered schools across Plymouth. • We are currently producing a pre-enrolment package to help bridge the gap from college/sixth form to university. This is being designed in line with our access and participation plan, reaching out to, and providing equal access to resources for, underrepresented groups. However, this will be available to all students joining us as we understand the disruption to study that COVID-19 has caused.
Graduation and Beyond:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support all students, our Futures Team have lifted the three-year employment support to last a lifetime. • Our Employment team have increased their social media visibility to help signpost students to the resources available for all students to enhance their employability, as well as personal and professional development; CV writing, practice virtual interviews and CPD courses, for example. • We are going to be providing a form of virtual graduation for all final year students.
Contact:	lbutler@marjon.ac.uk or dsmitham@marjon.ac.uk

Sheffield Hallam University

<p>Financial Support:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all students we are purchasing equipment for them to study at home if they don't have it (with no burden of proof). This is £500 / student. • For all students we are providing e-vouchers for Tesco (can be spent online and in store) • For students experiencing financial issues due to Covid-19 we are providing £300 from our Hardship Fund. • Estranged students and care experienced students can apply for an 'access fund' which is discretionary and managed by our named contact support co-ordinators who are experienced in supporting students in these groups. • We have introduced a transition fund to support estranged final year students to help bridge the gap between university and paid employment.
<p>Emotional Support:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our named contact support offer continues and students who are care experienced or estranged are able to book appointments to talk to their named contact support. • Text messages have been sent to all students, asking them to make us aware of any specific challenges that they are facing and any support needs that they may have. • All students who have stated that they would like to be contacted by the university have received a support call and support plans arranged as needed. • We are aware of this risk of isolation and loneliness and are including welfare checks in all contacts and offering advice as appropriate about safe ways to connect with family and friends. This area remains a key challenge in the current climate. • Our student wellbeing service continues to operate, offering appointments remotely as well as providing access to a range of self-help resources, including the Big White Wall. Within the student wellbeing team, students from these groups can always access the most enhanced level of support and a practitioner in the team has been identified as a lead for priority group students to ensure that they are able to access the support that they need. • Local support agencies are also promoted to students via communications channels.

Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are trying as much as possible to carry on as normal with regards to the support of all our students who are remaining in our accommodation at this time when we have seen many students returning to a family address. • At Sheffield Hallam we are working with our accommodation providers to ensure that we are able to offer year-round accommodation and our student support services are following established processes to enable early identification and management of any students in crisis, including regular liaison between residential and inclusive support teams. • We have been in close liaison with the accommodation providers to ensure that our students are kept informed about the options that are available to them and identifying where some flexibility is needed. For our care leavers and estranged students this could mean simply staying in their hall outside the usual tenancy dates, financial support, encouraging discussion with landlords regarding the relaxing or flexible rent payments plans to more complex cases where risk to the student has been identified and a more formal process has been agreed.
Assessment and Progression:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University has introduced a no detriment policy in respect of all students. Where students have specific challenges, (including those specific to our care experienced or estranged students), this will be considered further as required to ensure that appropriate allowances are made so that grades are not adversely affected by the current situation.
Pre Entry/Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining business as usual remotely for our applicant support scheme (SHU Progress). We support 13 different groups including CE and ES and are providing regular updates via email, answering queries and acting as a named contact. • We are also still engaging in outbound calling for any student who has ticked the CL UCAS tick box to verify their status and share details of our support scheme, and processing UNITE scholarship applications. We will also hand over to on-course support in time for the new academic year.
Graduation and Beyond:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduation ceremonies are due to take place in November, although we anticipate that there will be disruption to the schedule, we are not fully aware of what this will be as there are still several months before they are due to take place. We are looking at options for funding support for priority group students including care experienced and estranged students, as mentioned in Q1. • For the Class of 2020 we will be offering the following support; Paid internships – paid opportunities to gain experience in the labour market, where remote working is possible; Online career mentoring via the Hallam Collective to help students to develop networks; Access to online career workshops and webinars; Career bulletins and labour market information; Ongoing practical support from the team – guidance and employability appointments, practice interviews • All students will have the opportunity to access this provision but widening participation students, including care leavers and estranged students, will be given priority where places/resources are limited.
Contact:	Anna Jarvis: a.v.jarvis@shu.ac.uk

Staffordshire University

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEES Students have access to the Student Support Fund and we are currently looking to see if there is any budget left for a progression
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support teams have contact with students by email or telephone (alternated). Student have access to a private Facebook group for peer support. Virtual support available through the Student Guidance team and Student Wellbeing team. One Staffs Café – a virtual group open to all students, continues to run on a Thursday evening (term-time), with fun activities, such as online games and quizzes
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University accommodation is not charging fees for the third semester. All students have been contacted to check where they are staying during lockdown, whether in halls or other accommodation. Students in University accommodation also have access to Reslife Mentors, who are regularly checking everyone is ok and also helping to distribute food for students from the University catering team.
Assessment and Progression:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency regulations have been created and students will now only need 75 credits to be able to progress (apart from courses with Course specific regulations due to regulatory bodies) and students will be awarded a Hons Degree with 330 credits instead of 360 credits. A 'no detriment' policy is in place, so students can improve their mark if they wish.
Pre Entry/Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school's liaison team are continuing work with the local schools. The named contacts are available for applicants to contact and a member of the team is at the virtual open days we are holding at the moment. Applicants will be contacted in August as normal.
Graduation and Beyond:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the monthly contact with students, April's email informed students of the careers team, who still continue to be working. Students were also reminded of our contact details in case they want to get in touch.
Contact:	Student Guidance Team support@staffs.ac.uk

The Institute of Contemporary Music Performance

Financial Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Bursary worth up to £1,500 for every year of their course (from Sept 2020). • Hardship Funding is available for all current students to assist with rent payments and essentials for those self-isolating without a support network as a direct result of Covid-19. • Summer Bursary 2020 – Additional payment of £500 available for CEES students. • Support with applications to Student Finance. • Students without access to a computer and/or music equipment to complete assignments have been loaned ICMP equipment.
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Free Counselling available online throughout lockdown. • Priority access to Mental Wellbeing sessions “Staying Motivated, Productive and Positive” running throughout the summer period and into the new academic year. • Access to BWW an online mental health support community 24/7 365 days a year. • The Student Wellbeing Team (Mental Health & Disability Advisers) have been providing regular check-ins for students self-isolating alone or without a support network.
Assessment and Progression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extenuating Circumstances process simplified and open to all students academicsupport@icmp.ac.uk
Pre Entry/Outreach:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application and Audition Support through a named admissions adviser all online. • Outreach activities are all online. • Accommodation advice and guidance through “Inside Scoop” Sessions now available online..
Transitional:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bespoke “Inside Scoop – Information & Accommodation Session” a part of ICMP’s Transition Programme of activity currently all online. • Access to the ICMP’s “Pre-amp” Study Skills Course and 1:1 feedback session. • Named contact within the Student Wellbeing Team with the option of regular check-ins throughout the Academic year.
Graduation and Beyond:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers and Industry hub team offer careers advice and artist/talent development support for current students and Alumni. • An increased package of support for 2020 Graduates has just been launched through “ICMP Life”.
Contact	Studentwellbeing@icmp.ac.uk

University of Brighton

Financial Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The University of Brighton care leaver's bursary, financial advice, and additional financial support from the university and government. Depending on your circumstances you could also be eligible to receive further bursaries and financial support from the University of Brighton.
Emotional Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emotional support and wellbeing – an extensive range of wellbeing support and resources are available if you are experiencing stress or difficulty in or outside of university. We contacted all CLs at the beginning of lockdown, ensuring they were aware that the wellbeing team, SSGTs and other student support services were available and we will be checking in again shortly. We will be canvassing CLs on whether a fortnightly drop in would be useful and will set this up if there is demand.
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guaranteed accommodation in your first year.
Assessment and Progression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A personal student support and guidance tutor, who can help if you are struggling with your studies or need other support. Study skills assistance – to help you with the academic demands of university, we have study skills sessions and online support.
Contact	<p>aboutuni@brighton.ac.uk or student services: https://www.brighton.ac.uk/current-students/contacts/index.aspx#studentservices</p>

University of Bristol

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have a COVID-19 Hardship fund which students can apply for. Supported by the University our SU Network has been delivering care-packages with essential food items.
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have set up Bristol Voices, a befriending scheme initially aimed at CEES, where they can have regular contact with a member of Alumni who checks in to see how they are doing. Our SU and Residential life teams have set up online communities for all students to access. Our wellbeing team and counselling is now available online or via telephone. Access available to online resources from external providers, Big White Wall and Campus as well as online self-help resources. Support from designated contact now moved online, 1:1 appointments online or via telephone
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halls are still open and students are allowed to stay there. We have collected information about students who are still in Halls and also still in Private accommodation in Bristol. All students are being supported by our Resilife and Wellbeing teams as well as by me, the contact for CEES Students.
Assessment and Progression:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety Net policy where students can progress as long as they have met minimum requirements. Automatic extensions, provision for doing supplementary assessments if necessary. Remaining teaching and assessments moved on line. Possibility of provision of laptops/dongles where necessary to ensure students are able to access online learning and assessments.
Contact:	Maria Tottle: maria.tottle@bristol.ac.uk

University of Edinburgh

Financial Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extra hardship funds made available for students impacted by covid-19• Emergency funds available for food / other necessities
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email reminder to all CEES students about support services available to them• Phone call to all CEES students/or those esp vulnerable to check in,• Online video appointments and/or phone calls with student support teams
Contact:	wpteam@ed.ac.uk

University of Exeter

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Emergency Assistance Fund has been set up to support all registered UG & PG students that are facing financial difficulty because of the crisis, irrespective of fee-status. • Priority will be given to students stranded away from home or facing particular hardship due to the current situation. • CEES students can also apply for the University's Care Leaver bursary and Estranged student bursary for additional funding if required, which is dealt with on a case by case decision. If required the student can also apply for the Hardship and Retention Fund.
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a weekly virtual coffee morning specifically set up for both care leavers and estranged students. • Wellbeing are doing specific webinars on managing different aspects of mental health and wellbeing. Anyone in residences can access a schedule for different events being set up online to support wellbeing and mental health. • We continue to work in a Multidisciplinary way with NHS (UMCHT/ Crisis/Drs) and Exeter community intuitive (wellbeing Exeter) to identify anyone with any specific difficulties that need to be supported. • Continued email contact with care leavers and point of contact remains if they wish to make contact
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Assistance Fund, please see above. Any student can still stay in our halls of residence if required. As part of the care leaver bursary we will pay for summer accommodation costs wherever they choose to be as long as we have a contract. • Our Accommodation team and Wellbeing team are still working to offer support and check in where needed. Our Residence Life Team have also been visiting vulnerable students, which would possibly include Care experienced/ estranged students. • Estranged Students- We pay for summer accommodation costs wherever they choose to be as long as we have a contract
Assessment and Progression:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing support through our education hubs and welfare within the hubs. • Exams hotline for any difficulties during exams and dedicated welfare support on hand if needed, over the phone. • There has been an Emergency IT Loan Scheme that support students who don't have access to equipment to be able to study from home – Wifi/ laptops/screens etc.
Transitional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated contacts for questions, virtual offer holder days with links to specific care leaver/ estranged support. Processing all enquiries with regards to accommodation and unite foundation scholarship scheme, which we are a part of. • Linking in with LA's as requested by students. • Linking students for support with SFE applications, particularly Estranged students who may be new to independent status and need support navigating the system to evidence their independent status
Graduation and Beyond:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a Graduation scheme for Care leavers and Estranged students where we will pay £800.00 towards the next step in rent.
Contact:	outreach@exeter.ac.uk

University of Gloucestershire

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Leavers Scholarship (Correct for 2020/21 entry): Up to a maximum of £5,000 (over 3 years), plus a 50% tuition fee waiver every year (over 3 years or 4 years if studying a sandwich programme) www.glos.ac.uk/funding • Money Advice Team provide support for Estranged students to apply for enhanced funding from Student Finance; • Money Advice and Student Services refer and assist students to apply to the Financial Assistance Fund from the University for possible financial support • Care Leavers and Estranged students can be referred to the University's Crisis Fund.
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New health and wellbeing resource tile on the My Glos app (specifically to help during lockdown): https://glos.mydaycloud.com/pages/coronavirus-health-and-wellbeing • Health & Wellbeing Calendar: https://myhelp.glos.ac.uk/health-and-wellbeing/calendar/Pages/default.aspx • Mental Health Team and Counselling Team offer virtual appointments • Chaplaincy Team live streaming Mindfulness sessions and have created a Virtual Dogs group • Online facility for students to let us know if they are self-isolating and Student Services staff contacted them to offer support. • Student Services have contacted all Care Leavers in receipt of our bursary to check how they are and if they require support. • Student Services have contacted all known Estranged students, along with any new referrals
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halls remain open and students can remain • Residential Support • Support beyond the contractual period if lockdown continues. • Advice on and linking in with financial support available if required • Facebook page dedicated to all students who remain in halls and housing to link in, provide community and support. • Accommodation isn't charging students for their last term in halls if they have returned home for the lockdown.
Assessment and Progression:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online teaching, PowerPoint presentations with voiceovers, discussion board activities, directed tasks using provided resources, curated video and audio, online quizzes... • Alternative assessment briefs where possible, moving to online and individual submissions, but keeping the same learning outcomes • Submission dates have been delayed where necessary • Students can self-certify for a 2-week CV19 extension on assessments and can contact Helpzones for longer. • No Detriment Policy

Pre Entry/Outreach:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailored comms and alternative events being planned for summer school and residential applicants • Working with Uni Taster Days to deliver online webinars as part of Uni Taster Tuesday https://www.unitasterdays.com/ut-tuesdays.aspx • Online top tips blogs, videos etc being added to website https://www.glos.ac.uk/business-and-partnerships/outreach/pages/resources-for-teachers.aspx • Details of all of the above have been sent to teachers/ advisers, including those at the local Virtual Schools
Transitional:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live chat events for offer holders (with specialist staff from Outreach, Accommodation, Finance, Admissions, and Academics)
Graduation and Beyond:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dedicated Careers Consultant who works with Student Welfare Lead to support students individually and provide bespoke and referral where needed. • Resources and access to webinars added to our Careerhub portal for students to access. • Extended targeted support once the assessment period has finished and students have the mindset to consider next steps. There will be a particular focus on final year students.
	<p>Susana Franklyn (Student Welfare Lead – named contacted for care-leaver support): sfranklyn@glos.ac.uk</p>

University of Greenwich

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Leaver Bursary - £1,500 per annum for 3 to 4 years (depending upon the length of the course) plus £200 towards the costs of graduation. • Greenwich Bursary - for low income households of £700 paid in two instalments onto an Aspire Card which can be spent on learning resources. • Commuter Bursary – up to 50% of commuting costs or money towards a bicycle • Online Access Fund – financial support towards computer equipment and internet access • Hardship Fund • Other Scholarships and Bursaries are also available dependent upon individual circumstances • For further information and eligibility on all of the above please go to: https://www.gre.ac.uk/finance/funding-your-studies
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Designated Members of Staff can be a central point of contact and can help to signpost and refer students to our Student Wellbeing Team and Student and Academic Services for Accommodation, Financial and well-being support. • Our Student Wellbeing Team have Mental Health Advisers and Counsellors who offer emotional support and we also offer access to Big White Wall – a 24 online counselling service to all students.
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 365 year round accommodation available (this has been available throughout lockdown and Student Union shops have continued to be open for click and collect). • Refunds were given to those students who opted not to remain on campus.
Assessment and Progression:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Academic and Library Services can provide academic support through group and 1:1 support with assignments and dissertations. • The Disability & Dyslexia Team are able to put special examinations support in place, where required, and we offer an initiative called STAART which is available to Disabled students pre-entry to support them in applying to Higher Education and throughout their education journey.
Pre-Entry/Outreach:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Designated Members of Staff can be contacted for individual advice, guidance and support. • We can also arrange bespoke visits and events for local authorities. • Prospective students can be offered the opportunity to discuss subjects areas or what it is like being a care leaver at university with current Student Ambassadors.
Transitional:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We offer preparation events and webinars to assist students in their transition and prepare for university and we also offer a mentor to all new care leavers and care experienced students for their first term to help settle into higher education. • We contact all new students at the beginning of term by telephone and we really encourage them to join the Greenwich Friends mentoring scheme, as studies have shown that students who participate settle much quicker into university life and succeed better in their studies.
Graduation and Beyond:	<p>We offer £200 towards graduation costs to eligible care leavers and our Employability and Careers Service offer support with finding employment opportunities throughout students’ studies and for two years after graduation.</p>

Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We offer bespoke events and webinars to local authorities for groups of students and individual advice, guidance and support for individual care leavers. • We run a contact database with local authorities in Kent and South East London and circulate opportunities for care leavers at the University and other organisations on a regular basis.
Contact	<p>careleavers@greenwich.ac.uk – Will Calver, Designated Member of Staff for Care Leavers / Chris Colson, Care Leaver Coordinator</p> <p>For more information on support please visit our webpage and also view the video at: https://www.gre.ac.uk/study/support/care-leavers</p>
Clearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For enquiries students can telephone our Clearing Team on 020 8331 9000. We also have live chat available on our webpages: https://www.gre.ac.uk/ and students have the opportunity to sign up to our priority clearing service which provides access to a priority phone line and online chat service. This service also supports students in the run up to results day

University of the Highlands and Islands

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care experienced students are a priority group for bursaries and internal funding schemes such as the Discretionary Fund, with tick boxes on application forms.
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our students have access to support from local staff at our campuses and learning centres we provide additional support via our extensive webpages which includes links to external resources. There is also 24/7 access to the Big White Wall for anonymous mental health support, and we have an Online Counselling service.
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care experienced students have access to the on-site accommodation we have (which is not at all of our campuses) 365 days per year. We will also act as a guarantor if the student does not have one.
Graduation and Beyond:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We offer a Care Experienced Bursary for assistance with graduation costs such as travel and accommodation, gown hire, photographs, etc. Our alumni have lifetime access to the services provided by our Careers and Employability team.
Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many of our campuses have established links with local authority Through Care and After Care teams.
Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants who declare they are care experienced will be contacted by staff prior to enrolment to offer access to support.

University of Huddersfield

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highlight access to Hardship funds or alternative• Sending supermarket/ food vouchers or small electronic transfers for food for those that need it
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email reminder to all CEES students about support services available to them• Phone call to all CEES students/or those esp vulnerable to check in.• Online video appointments and/or phone calls with student support teams
Contact:	Ruth r.cohen@hud.ac.uk

University of Law

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our CEES Students have access to a £2000 a year financial support package.• CEES students can also apply for our Covid-19 Short Term Assistance Fund in addition to this financial support package
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The welfare officer at each of our campuses support care experienced and estranged students from their campus.• We have moved our counselling provision online
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No owned accommodation, but helping out when can when accommodation issues are raised
Assessment and Progression:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The University has implemented a No Detriment Policy, and students can also opt not to take their assessments during this period with no disadvantage.
Pre- Entry/Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are collaborating with other organisations such as AccessHE to provide a virtual outreach offer to Looked After Children.
Graduation and Beyond:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our Employability team is running additional webinars and 1-2-1 support sessions for students to explore their options and support them in their search for graduate employment.
Contact:	Hannah Cole or Katherine Meehan: katherine.meehan@law.ac.uk Hannah.Coe@law.ac.uk

University of Leeds

Financial Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEES students invited to apply for financial support fund during COVID-19’. • Students can apply for a maximum of £500 (non repayable) to support with bills, rent, groceries, medication, travel (for example for nursing students going to placements). • We are also encouraging these students to apply for ‘Leeds Hardship Fund’ support for help with more long-term costs. This is available specifically for CEES students over summer.
Emotional Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephoned all CEES students we are aware of to check in. • We have also offered within our financial support fund to pay for mental health and wellbeing support such as mindfulness app subscriptions where we think it will support a student. • Support being provided by the university’s mental health and wellbeing team such as telephone counselling appointments and encouraged those who need to, to access this. • We offered an online quiz social
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fund mentioned above can be used to pay for rent payments. • We can support students with issues relating to guarantors for private housing where we would pay a company such as Housing Hands on their behalf.
Assessment and Progression:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting students who are CEES with a laptop loan from the university if they did not have one of their own or it was broken. • Support with accessing WiFi at home. • Support with essential equipment such as textbooks and software. • guidance appointments and webinars
Transitional:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contacting students with details of our offer for CEES students with encouragement to apply for our scholarship. • We have developed the offer to include reimbursement for travel and moving in costs specifically for care exp and estranged students, a kitchenware and bedding pack and staff//student support to help on moving in weekend so that these students do not feel alone when they first arrive in Leeds ‘Access to Leeds’ programme has been adapted to reflect the current times.
Graduation and beyond:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have contracted <u>RARE</u> graduate recruitment specialists to provide ring fenced places for care leaver and estranged students offering 1 to 1 careers guidance appointments and webinars
Contact:	careleavers@leeds.ac.uk

University of Leicester

Financial Support:	Additional financial support, on a case-by-case basis with a lower threshold for evidence of financial hardships for CEES
Emotional Support:	Additional mental health support, including fast-tracked counselling and wellbeing service appointments; and Regular contact through our welfare advisors.
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocacy with accommodation provides, to ensure continuation of accommodation over the summer period of the offer of alternative university-run accommodation if preferred. Free immediate emergency accommodation, if required.
Graduation and Beyond:	Options of temporary accommodation and financial support who were due to graduate and have had to change their plans as a result of the pandemic.
Contact:	ch274@leicester.ac.uk

University of Liverpool

Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All support moved online; continuing to have high levels of contact including care experienced / estranged. • Weekly check in for students remain in Liverpool provides support for those who are unable to return to families. • We have contacted care leavers directly to discuss support needs
Pre entry/Outreach:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to vulnerable pre-entry students through our Disrupted Education Project (DEP). The DEP has continued to engage throughout the period of lockdown, providing additional support during. • Applicants have direct contact to member of staff within Outreach addressing their issues and concerns. • Student Finance Webinar – specific focus on applying to SFE as an independent applicant and additional financial support available to vulnerable students. • Accommodation Information – pre-recorded video produced by a current undergraduate living within university Halls of Residence, providing relevant information about life in halls. • Undergraduate Opportunities – pre-recorded video regarding employment opportunity within the Outreach team as a Student Advocate and information talks regarding Study Abroad and the opportunities available to travel during studies. • Subject Talks – combination of webinars and pre-recorded videos from current undergraduates relevant to specific courses. Content includes first year modules, assessments, opportunities and highlights of the course.
Transitional:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contextual admissions process, applicant’s opportunity to share additional information regarding their social circumstances and how this has affected their education. The Disrupted Studies Form has been shared with all known CEES applicants and they have been encouraged to provide information that can be used by admissions staff to add context to their applications. This policy also enables us to consider Care Experienced applicants during the confirmation and clearing process and support their progress into the university.
Contact	Ben Toleman B.Toleman@liverpool.ac.uk

University of Portsmouth

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All CEES students have been contacted directly to encourage them to come forward if they have any additional needs. • Our Care Leaver and Stand Alone Bursaries are paid in three instalments and the final payment was made last week. • The students are a priority for Support Funds and we are planning to contact them again mid-May to invite them to apply for funds for the summer period.
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University Wellbeing Team has remained available on site. • Regular communications have been sent to students encouraging them to seek support if needed and those in Halls have been regularly monitored by the Residential Life staff, Chaplains and Wellbeing.
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release from halls contract option and flexibility over collecting belongings. • We have also given students flexibility over end of contract dates if they are not able to travel or return to homes. • In addition, we are offering Hall rooms to students in private housing who are experiencing welfare issues and our Residence Life support contact and 24/7 on call services are ongoing. • CEES students will also receive; Ongoing and focused Residence Life support calls. Liaison with 3rd party provider halls over support for any students in this group.
Assessment and Progression:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University has recently implemented and communicated a No-Detriment policy which outlines the various safeguards and steps in place for academic progression and assessment.
Pre Entry/Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University has moved to Virtual events and open days. One of the events addresses Student Finance and the Institution's Estranged Student contact will be delivering part of the session.
Contact:	laura.robby@port.ac.uk

University of Salford

<p>Financial Support:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight access to hardship funds or alternative funding streams. • Sending out small electronic transfers for food for those that need it • Reassurance about owed bursary payments, or student finance payments given • Students can re-apply for the Salford Support Fund within year with an agreed process that reduces evidence and process; can apply multiple times as necessary. • Carers bursary which will be payable by the end of April and will become an annual bursary like CEES bursaries. • Student Support Fund has been increased by University to reflect need. • Allowance for an additional bursary payment in summer for CEES if needed.
<p>Emotional Support:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One hot meal a day provided to all remaining in accommodation for free. • Email reminder to all CEES students about support services available to them, • Phone call to CEES students that are tagged vulnerable, email to others • Sending cards/letters to students e.g. Easter cards or 'Thinking of You' • Online video appointments and/or phone calls with student support teams. • Virtual support networks for students on campus. Online Team site for Care Experienced students to chat to the CEES Team and other care leavers • The Student Union has also set up a Facebook site for all students still in accommodation or who feel isolated. They arrange fun activities through this. CEES students have been encouraged to join in. • For those that have said that they want regular check ins, the adviser will do so, and any more severe mental health needs have been flagged to our counselling and wellbeing team for more specific interventions.
<p>Accommodation:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending accommodation leases- or releasing from accommodation early. • Letter sent to all private landlords asking for students to be released from contracts. • University has paid final accommodation fee for all students who wanted to leave accommodation • Our VC has written a letter to private landlords asking for students to be released from their contracts. • We have been working with Manchester Student Homes to ensure the best outcomes for those in private accommodation. • Those CEES students left in accommodation, who cannot work or find work can contact ask US for financial support if they are unable to meet rent payments due.

Assessment and Progression:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have introduced a safety net policy - Our safety net policy ensures that no student is negatively affected by the corona virus outbreak • We have relaxed exceptional circumstances procedures (PMC's) so that students can get extensions without providing evidence. • There has been multiple posting on our Student Hub about this and assessment. • All CEES students have been made aware personally of the assessment changes on teams and links to the hub on correspondence. • Our team is here to help these students with any questions they have. • Laptops are being distributed by Schools on the basis of need, and I have made schools aware that CEES students should be prioritised.
Pre Entry/Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Pre-application outreach work has been adapted and been carried out as planned, albeit virtually.
Transitional:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bespoke online open days and applicant visit days for care leavers and estranged student. We are also publicising these to local authorities (with the option of sessions for multiple young people in the local authority and their key workers at one session like we did before) and to colleges and schools for pre- application sessions. • We have sent an email to all care experienced and estranged applicants as we usually do to outline the support from the care experienced and estranged student teams, but this year we added a bit about contacting us if you would like a individual bespoke online visit day. • We hope to remain in contact with these students after the sessions by hosting an online university skills session in September before term starts, focusing on things like resilience, study skills and academic confidence. This way we will be able keep in contact with the students that have attended and be able to focus this session on delivering information on what teaching will look like for next year as at the present this is unclear.
Graduation and Beyond:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All bursaries are open to final year students so all graduating students will be eligible for all existing and any extra bursaries we are providing. • They are also free to stay on at their university accommodation until at least August. • Our Care Leaver Covenant focuses on graduate employability so we have fast tracked this part of the covenant. • Our Careers staff are available to all graduates for their lifetime.
Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaising with local authorities for care leavers, to tie in support offered by university. • Have worked with GMH & GMCA to produce a spreadsheet of all local authority support for care leaver at University • Locally I am in regular contact with Salford City Council and we have updates on each SCC student at the university, so we understand what the LA is providing them with.
Contact:	<p>Lead: Arron Pile A.Pile@salford.ac.uk Student Support: Jane Hopkinson J.L.Hopkinson@salford.ac.uk Outreach: Hannah Wilson H.E.Wilson2@salford.ac.uk></p>

University of Southampton

<p>Financial Support:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEES students have been contacted directly to understand any specific issues they are experiencing. • All students already receive an annual bursary paid in two instalments and option to have this paid early if required. • Information on a simplified “crisis” hardship process offers eligible students one months rent and six weeks of living costs was provided to these students and all applications prioritised. • To ensure students in need receive funding as quickly as possible the University of Southampton have increased our BACS payment runs to three per week and introduced online authorisation processes. This means that students can receive funds directly to their bank account within three working days. • To help CEES Students in the short term all students were sent online food vouchers to ensure they were able to purchase food and supplies in the short term. This was particularly useful for those who were self-isolating with symptoms of Covid-19 in the first few weeks of lockdown.
<p>Emotional Support:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University of Southampton has three dedicated contacts for CEES Students • CEES students all were contacted by phone to address their concerns. They were also all sent a care pack which included an Amazon Echo Dot which has a wealth of wellbeing, mindfulness and study support apps as well as e-vouchers for food. • As the remainder of this semester will now be taught online the Student Inclusion team will be working with students to develop online support which may include peer support through Microsoft Teams for Care Leavers and Estranged students. The University have liaised with both local and national charities and are sharing details of their digital apps and online workshops • The Students’ Union have put together several short videos highlighting the support available and key information for students all in one place. They are hosting weekly Q&A sessions every Friday to update students and try to alleviate some of the concerns raised. They’ve launched a ‘buddy system’ to get participating students randomly matched with one another to ensure they have someone to check in with, as well as creating their new Online Community Group on Facebook. Last week, this group posted a video with students sharing their experiences of isolation and loneliness. They provided some tips and coping strategies they’d used. This video has been viewed more than 3,500 times in its first week. • In addition, the University’s Enabling Services now offer online counselling and wellbeing sessions for students and Sports and Wellbeing have launched a series of online fitness classes. • Student Life our 24/7 student support team based in university accommodation remain available by email and phone to support students both in and out of university accommodation. They’re also running a series of online quiz nights, cookery classes and photography competitions to engage students and reduce isolation and loneliness

<p>Accommodation:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEES students can access emergency accommodation in university halls and all students have been contacted and offered this support where appropriate. • Students who need alternative accommodation and who would struggle to cover this cost can apply to the university's hardship for financial support. • CEES students who were in halls and chose to leave their accommodation following the outbreak of Covid-19 were able to do so without penalty or paying for their third term. • The Students' Union are lobbying local private halls providers to offer discounts and contact releases for students. The Advice Centre based in the Students Union have also created a letter template for students to use to request that their landlord to release them from a student housing contract due to COVID-19. This document has been circulated to all CEES students. • As standard CEES students are eligible for 365 accommodation in halls which will ensure that they continue to have housing throughout the current lockdown period.
<p>Assessment and Progression:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched Transition to Online Learning in the first week back from Easter vacation. In addition to ensuring that students can access the essential tools for their online experience to feel confident and ready to reconnect with their studies. Each day there was a scheduled number of activities for students to undertake designed to help connect them to online resources and support services, contact their teaching teams and engage with the student community via the Student's Union. • Students who were unable to access the online learning programme could apply for Online Learning Grants of up to £300 to purchase laptops and other equipment as well as the internet required to continue their studies. The University has so far offer £150,000 to support students to purchase equipment and has supported over 800 students with grants. • Undergraduate CEES students are eligible for a Welcome Pack offered on arrival. These packs contain a new laptop, vouchers for books and materials and a bus pass or gym membership. This means that all CEES students have high specification laptops which will allow them to effective access online learning and support. They can still apply for funding for additional equipment and grants have been offered for headphones for those in busy houses, internet or internet boosters and other essential equipment. • Using our Early Warning System which measures student's engagement with online systems the University could identify those who had not accessed the essential system used in teaching and personal academic tutors could contact those students to offer support and highlight the Online Learning Grants • The University have agreed to adopt a 'no detriment' policy, which means that as long as students submit work for all required assessments this semester, we guarantee that their academic year average will be no lower than the average achieved by 22 March 2020. for good reason, can apply for Special Considerations as required.

Pre Entry/Outreach	<p>The Widening Participation Outreach team have dedicated staff to pre-entry work with offer holders with a care experienced background</p> <p>The Widening Participation Outreach team have been using resources to ensure they maintain contact with community groups and partnership schools. A Teams group has been created for staff supporting Care Leavers & Estranged students. This will act as a central hub across the university to plan and create an on-going programme of support for these students.</p>
Local Authorities	<p>Early conversations with local authorities have indicated a lot of resource is going to supporting Year 11 students in care and their transition to college at this time, highlighting that as a University we have a duty to support those students applying to and in HE.</p>
Contact:	<p>David Munn: StudentInclusion@soton.ac.uk</p>

University of Strathclyde

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highlight access to Hardship funds or alternative.• Reassurance about owed bursary payments, or any student finance payments
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email reminder to all CEES students about support services available to them• Phone call to all CEES students to check in• Online video appointments and/or phone calls with student support teams• continuation of online mentoring
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to Strathclyde Accommodation• Accommodation deposit waiver
Contact:	Deborah Duncan d.duncan@strath.ac.uk

University of Sunderland

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight access to Hardship funds or alternative. • Sending supermarket/ food vouchers or small electronic transfers for food for those that need it. • Reassurance about owed bursary payments, or any student finance payments. • Additional funding made available via the University Hardship Fund. Care experienced and estranged students have been prioritised. • Introduced additional £500 We Care Scholarship payment in July 2020 (total annual We Care Scholarship is £2,000 paid in 4 instalments).
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email reminder to all CEES students about support services available to them • Phone call to all CEES students to check in, • Online video appointments and/or phone calls with student support team. • We have a closed Facebook group for care experienced and estranged student • We are engaging with the University Chaplain as he is keeping in touch with students living on campus and within the city. He is referring students to us (and vice versa) to help us provide holistic support across the institution. • All care experienced and estranged students have work mobile numbers to contact the team, we can also be reached via our Facebook group to provide online support at any time. • We are sharing 'Isolation Diaries' of our care experienced and estranged students.
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students living on campus – Accommodation Team checking in with them regularly • Contracts can be extended / guaranteed accommodation 52 weeks of the year • Acting as guarantor for students living in private accommodation. • Emergency accommodation available for those who need it.
Assessment and Progression:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have contacted all care experienced and estranged students to check that they have access to IT equipment required for online teaching and learning. Where this was a barrier, we have provided a laptop on long term loan (sent by courier). • We have supported students by liaising with academic colleagues re: academic extensions or extenuating circumstances. This has included cases where: students are feeling overwhelmed by the current pandemic which has triggered mental health issues.
Transitional:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are holding an outbound call campaign w/c 11 May for all applicants who have indicated that they are care experienced via their UCAS form, or by directly contacting the We Care Team. The purpose of this call is to reassure applicants that support is available, outline this to them, answer any questions and signpost to further information or services. We will also offer a regular check in with a member of the team between now and September.

Graduation and Beyond:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have introduced Digital Student Ambassador roles and any care experienced or estranged student who are interested in applying are guaranteed an interview. This will provide regular paid work over the coming months. • Once final degree classifications are available on our student records system we will be sending 'congratulations' cards and gift vouchers to students. We are discussing personal circumstances with individual students.
Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have been in touch with two local authorities so far, both have reached out to individuals. • We plan to contact all of our 'local' local authorities over the coming weeks to share with them how our support has developed and identify areas for further improvement and support.
Contact:	Wendy Price: care.contact@sunderland.ac.uk or call 0191 515 2216

University of Sussex

Financial support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students who are struggling as a result of the Covid-19 crisis are encouraged to apply for financial support via the universities Hardship Fund, to which care-leaver students have priority access. There is also a food-bank set up on campus Hot food delivered to any students who are self-isolating.
Emotional Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The University of Sussex's Student Life Team have been in regular contact with care-leaver students. Online meetings and support for any students who need it - including counselling. They are also working closely with LA's where a student may be particularly vulnerable.
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any care-leaver student that left the university halls of residence due to Covid-19 have had their rent for April, May and June cancelled.
Assessment and Progression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students have been reassured that there will be no detriment to their grades due to the global pandemic, meaning they ensure overall year averages will not be lower than the average mark achieved in Semester 1. Further details and information on teaching and learning online can be found here - https://student.sussex.ac.uk/coronavirus/education.
Pre Entry/Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widening Participation team Summer Schools for year 10 and year 12 students are being offered as virtual experiences. Communications are being sent to students with appropriate IAG in response to the Covid-19 crisis, including Student Finance and transition support, and student ambassadors videos offering insight and student profiles. Care experienced young people who would like to find out more about going on to university, or the University of Sussex, can contact Anne-marie Bird on a.bird@sussex.ac.uk.
Transitional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for applicants, including videos and a detailed FAQ's can be found here - https://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/coronavirus-advice-for-applicants
Graduation and Beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All summer graduation ceremonies have been postponed, to a date TBC in 2021 https://www.sussex.ac.uk/graduation/summer
Contact	a.bird@sussex.ac.uk

University of the West of England

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight access to Hardship and Emergency funds • UWE Bristol is releasing Hardship Funds and prioritising the cohort. Fast track referrals through UWE Cares to the Student Money Service to access urgent financial support and information • priority access to The Student Support Fund if they have lost their job or if their sandwich or work placement has ended early • the Short-Term Loan Scheme, which lends money to students' interest-free if they have a short-term cash flow problem • repatriation costs (costs to return to the UK) for any students who were stranded on placements or study abroad. This includes flights and other reasonable transport costs, accommodation, deposit etc. Further support is available through The Study Abroad Team • the Placement Cost Loan scheme for healthcare students on placement • a new Study Costs "IT Hardware" scheme, where students in their final year or their penultimate year can access up to £300 to purchase IT equipment like a laptop in order to continue their studies and assessments online.
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email reminder to all CEES students about support services available to them • Phone call to all CEES students/or those esp vulnerable to check in and offer support • Online video appointments and/or phone calls with UWE Cares staff • UWE Cares is delivering regular student socials online and has plans to move positive wellbeing workshops to online platforms in the coming weeks and months.
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early release from their UWE Accommodation contract, free of charge, if needed • no requirement to leave UWE Accommodation during lock-down and thereafter if needed • Accommodation Services will pack up and securely store belongings for all students who left campus temporarily and cannot return to collect them, free of charge • Early release of UWE Accommodation contract even if they still have belongings in their room on campus • Priority access to Summer Accommodation on campus • Financial assistance to rent removal vans from UWE Cares • Deposit waivers for both Summer Accommodation and Term-time Accommodation for the next academic year and priority room allocation. This is available to all UWE Cares students in any year of their undergraduate study, not just first year students • Specialist advice and guidance for students who have left their private accommodation but are not being allowed to leave tenancy agreements from UWE Bristol's Students' Union. • Accommodation Services continue to proactively support students who are living on campus and provide regular check ins • Contactless home delivery service delivering groceries and supplies from the UWE SU shop to students self-isolating on campus • New online "Halls Life" resources to help students on campus to maintain positive wellbeing and keep busy. This includes an online support group, recipes, quizzes, exercise videos and more.

Assessment and Progression:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All UWE Bristol students, including care experienced students and estranged students, can access: the new Study Costs “IT Hardware” scheme, where students in their final or penultimate year can access up to £300 to purchase IT equipment like a laptop, to enable them to continue their studies and assessments online teaching and assessments have moved online where possible • New academic regulations, which have been put in place to support students to progress and/or complete their awards • The University is taking a 'no-detriment' approach to the 2019/20 academic year. As long as students qualify to progress or graduate based on the marks obtained this academic year, UWE Bristol will ensure that their final academic year average is the same as, or higher than, the average they attained up to Wednesday 18 March 2020 (the day teaching moved online). • UWE Bristol applied personal circumstances to all students, covering all assessments due to have been submitted between Wednesday 18 March 2020 and the end of the 19/20 academic year. Students do not need to provide evidence or complete forms to access this academic support.
Transitional:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care experienced applicants and estranged applicants can access: • application support from UWE Cares, including information about our enhanced bursary, priority access to UWE accommodation, Student Finance, induction and social activities • bespoke regular updates through the UWE Bristol applicant’s Welcome Portal from UWE Cares • private instant messenger applicant Q&A, delivered by UWE Cares staff through the UniBuddy platform on our Summer Open Day in June • UWE Cares information and support for applicants’ video, and live Q&A session, which will be live on the UWE Bristol in June • UWE Bristol will be providing an enhanced online induction for all students starting in the 2020/2021 academic year, which focuses on academic readiness, personal development and growth mindset. This will be in addition to the support students receive as part of UWE Cares.
Graduation and Beyond:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current care experienced students and estranged students can access: • 1-to-1 Careers Coaching for up to 3 years after graduation from a named Careers Coach • funds to pay for graduation costs from UWE Cares a £500 Graduation Bursary to help launch their graduate lives.
Contact:	Steffie Denton UWECares@uwe.ac.uk

University of Wolverhampton

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care Leavers and estranged students are being prioritised for access to our Hardship funds in addition to the normal bursaries they are eligible for We wrote to students who are already received a bursary on to offer them additional financial support if needed during this time. We wrote to Care Leavers and estranged students who had not engaged previously reminding them of support available.
Emotional Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular email reminders to all CEES students about support services available to them and including information from NNECL, StandAlone, etc Phone call to all CEES students/or those esp vulnerable to check in (where requested) Online video appointments and/or phone calls with student support teams in Local authorities Staff (e.g. mental health practitioners) checking in with students in halls regularly. All students can request a welfare check. CL and estranged are a priority group for a same day response if required (I have a daily meeting with the Mental Health Coordinator). Students can request a check as often as they find helpful. We do a variety of social activity online and encourage these students to “attend” as much as possible.
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If students are in University accommodation we have reassured them that they could stay beyond the contract end date if required. Any students staying in University halls is receiving a 25% reduction in accommodation fees. If any student does experience accommodation issues during this period I have a contact with the council to sort out emergency accommodation
Assessment and Progression:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students have been able to request the loan of a laptop and wifi dongle – CEES students are a priority. The Academic Coaches and Faculty Student Services are in regular contact with students to offer academic support. Our Library continues to offer study skills session (including workshops and 1:1s) online. Where students need extra time to complete assessments we have simplified these requests.
Transitional:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will be writing to this group of students reminding them of the support available.
Graduation and Beyond:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Careers team is working remotely and will be supporting all Final Year students offering Career Review Appointments (to help prepare for life after University); CV360 – to help optimise CVs; Mock Interviews; plus, online and University resources to make sure final year students are career ready.
Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaising with LA’s for most vulnerable care leavers, to tie in support offered.
Contact:	Kirsty Doward: k.Doward@wlv.ac.uk

University of York

Financial Support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency support fund for all students, but care experienced and estranged students are priority groups. • Contacting students on a case-by-case basis to help with financial hardship applications of up to £3,000. Where necessary, ensuring these students are prioritised so they get a quicker assessment and access to funds. • Highlighting access to hardship funds or alternative funding streams
Emotional Support:	<p>General support across the University:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online video appointments and/or phone calls with the Student Hub advisers who give advice around things like finance and accommodation. • Created a new set of student advice pages that all students can access <p>Student Support continue to operate remotely e.g. telephone counselling appointments. The University has purchased The Big White Wall which is available online 24/7. This offers mental health advice and support.</p> <p>The dedicated contact has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sent weekly emails to check-in. These include reminders about support services available to students. • Offered checking-in phone calls to all CEES students/or those esp vulnerable. • Used a dedicated Facebook group to reduce isolation. • Delivered weekly online drop-in sessions. These are to keep in contact with students who may otherwise be isolated. They are well attended and receive positive feedback from students. • Created both an email and Facebook group to allow and encourage these students to speak to each other and share tips / experiences of the current situation. • Organised social events such as quiz nights and an online escape room. • Continued to send a monthly newsletter with tips and opportunities. <p>Organised an online graduation celebration.</p>
Accommodation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students have the option to be released from their University accommodation contracts without any penalty. <p>The Vice Chancellor has written to all private landlords and letting agents to urge them to support students, where possible, with rent reductions or releasing them from contracts early.</p> <p>The dedicated contact is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working closely with Accommodation to ensure care leavers or estranged students who have nowhere to go are housed on campus. This has included students going on a Leave of Absence who would ordinarily need to vacate their campus room. <p>Paid for summer storage for students who need it.</p>
Assessment and Progression:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £400 loans available for students to purchase IT equipment. • We have introduced a safety net policy. • We have relaxed exceptional circumstances procedures so that students can get extensions without evidence. <p>We have created alternative assessments such as 24 hour online exams.</p>
Pre-Entry/Outreach:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WP Outreach activity has moved online - this includes residentials. <p>Work being delivered includes new web pages, webinars, workshops and MOOCs.</p>

Transitional:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We are delivering online virtual visit days ● We will be contacting all care leavers and estranged students to find out if they will need accommodation in the event that lockdown continues at the start of the academic year. ● Online meetings between the dedicated contact and new students and their Local Authorities are taking place. An induction event is moving to an online alternative.
Graduation and Beyond:	Currently offer £1000 graduation bursary for CEES
Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● City of York have supported care leavers in HE to either remain in student accommodation to continue their studies or return to staying put arrangements with former foster carer in York. ● Ensured all have access to digital support to continue studies and contact tutors and campus care leaver support as appropriate to discuss any outstanding work or any issues regarding completing work required before the end of this academic year. ● The Pathway ETE officer and Pathway workers have also contacted the care leavers to confirm accommodation at University is paid by the Leaving care team and to begin planning for next year's student finance and accommodation. Allocated workers have checked all HE students have food and finance during this
Contact:	Dedicated contact is Joanna Paluch-Edwards student-independent@york.ac.uk

Additional Resources



[NeuroLove](#) was created by a diverse team which allows us to offer a variety of activities on our interactive website. Some of our team have shared similar experiences to young people living in care or have experienced mental health problems themselves.

You can join live classes and mentor sessions to bring real-world connection to an online platform. Our website also offers resources, events, apps and even some podcasts. Every day we have new classes, such as baking the perfect (budget friendly) cupcake, to learning how to create video games. We also have live classes to help with sleep, anxiety or low mood. Our Social Therapy team are on hand to listen and offer support. Our Social Therapists are trained to give confidential support around issues that young people often experience.

More information: <https://neurolove.org/>

The Department for Education and the Care Leavers Covenant have released some incredibly helpful and useful guidance and factsheets for Care Leavers in Higher Education during and beyond Covid covering an array of topics such as employment, accommodation, university studies and : https://warwick.ac.uk/study/outreach/news/fact_sheet_24-28.pdf