



Stand Alone is closing

It is with great sadness that I am announcing today the closure of Stand Alone charity.

After 12 successful years in the context of rapidly changing circumstances and a challenging wider environment hampering our efforts to raise additional funding, we have had to make the hard decision to close. Stand Alone will cease its operations on 31 March 2024 and will be officially dissolved by 30 April 2024.

This is not a decision Stand Alone's Board of Trustees have taken lightly.

While we are all very regretful that Stand Alone charity has reached the end of the road, we are immensely proud of what we have achieved. And we want to take this opportunity to celebrate the changes we have effected for estranged students since launching our higher education work in 2016.

Since launching the higher education work in 2016 we have fulfilled our ambition for the higher education sector to recognise that estranged students are a group of vulnerable students who do not have equal opportunities to access and succeed compared to many of their peers who have parents and a family behind them. Estrangement is now a core element of widening participation in higher education and support for estranged students is embedded in higher education policy and within many higher education providers across the country. And, most importantly, we have given estranged students a voice and they are being heard.

Now that Stand Alone is closing it is time to hand over the baton and for higher education sector bodies, higher education providers and other third sector organisations to keep advocating for and driving forward the development of support for estranged students in higher education.

Will your organisation make a public commitment to do so through a 'Stand Alone Legacy Pledge'?

Alongside today's announcement I am running a social media celebration with voices from our stakeholders and students. I would like to invite you to join in and share your thoughts on how Stand Alone has positively impacted the work you do in higher education #StandAloneHE.

If your organisation is keen to make a 'Stand Alone Legacy Pledge' I will be running a further social media legacy campaign #ESLegacyPledge between 18 – 20th March when you can make your Legacy Pledge public.

I will also feature your Legacy Pledge at my final online event 'Passing the Baton' for the higher education sector on 21 March 2024 which you can sign up to attend here: <http://tinyurl.com/y5m7kxa2>

Further details on our legacy plans will be communicated in the next couple of weeks.

I would like to thank you for all your support over the past eight years. Without our stakeholders Stand Alone would never have been able to achieve what we have in improving access, participation and success of estranged students.

I would also like to thank all our funders and individual private donors who have supported Stand Alone over the years. In particular the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, without whose funding over seven years our higher education work would have not been possible, the Robertson Trust for funding to focus on HE policy change in Scotland specifically, and the generous, ongoing funding from the Tudor Trust which is now allowing us to wind the charity down in the best way possible.

With best wishes

Susan and everyone at Stand Alone

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