



Department
for Education

Higher Education Mental Health Implementation Taskforce

Student Commitment

This strand of work addresses concerns about the content and tone of the communication to students used by HEPs and the framing and phrasing of policies and procedures that potentially contribute to the mental distress of students.

Update

A further draft of the Student Commitment has been developed following input at Taskforce Meeting 6. The draft has since been sent for review to students and student representatives, including the Student Minds Student Advisory Committee. It is also being reviewed by specialists in international students and neurodivergent students. Once these reviews are completed, there will be a light touch legal review in the interest of due diligence.

Discussions are underway with the Academic Registrars' Council (ARC) to own and champion the Commitment within the sector, and a proposal will be tabled at their Executive Meeting on 19 April. At this stage it is anticipated that the Student Commitment will eventually be embedded within individual HEPs' Student Charter or equivalent.

The Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) has been extremely helpful in drafting the Student Commitment and ensuring that it is in line with their Good Practice Framework. It is anticipated that they will be able to use the Commitment to adjudicate on student complaints, although at this stage it is not confirmed whether this will apply to all HEPs or just those who have actively embraced the Commitment. We will work with ARC and the OIA to clarify this point over the coming month.

Additionally, there have been conversations with Student Minds about how the Student Commitment can be shared with institutions who are working towards the UMHC, through their Hub and development programme.

Discussion point

Additional examples of good practice to illustrate the Student Commitment principles would be welcomed at this stage.

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