

Statement on behalf of: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Birmingham City University

University of Birmingham

Coventry University

Heart of Worcestershire College

Keele University

University of Warwick

University of Wolverhampton

Staffordshire University

This statement is to support and clarify our position in relation to Social Work student placements and to support our practice partners in these extraordinary circumstances. We would like to confirm the following:

We will not currently be seeking to send any new students out into practice who are not already allocated and in attendance, this means that placements due to start after today would be suspended until further notice. This is to support you and provide clarity for our students and Universities. We will focus on re-starting any suspended placements as priority once this is possible.

We understand that agencies where possible are reviewing students working off-site and from their homes; we support this in the following circumstances (case by case):

- The agency will confirm that the student will be provided with accessibility to networks and use of equipment to enable working off-site.
- There will be ongoing access to Practice supervisor and educator support and there will be monitoring of workload to continue.

Should the situation change and there is insufficient work available for the student off-site (or the need to self-isolate), the University in discussion with the agency, will temporarily suspend the placement and record the days completed.

We are committed to supporting you and current student to continue in existing placements.