



FAMILIES CONNECTING TO PREVENT SUICIDES

admin@thelearnnetwork.org.uk

www.thelearnnetwork.org.uk



thelearnnetwork

For Immediate Release

15th March 2023

100,000 Signatories Have Spoken: Time For The Government To Do The Right Thing

The LEARN Network would like to express our sincere thanks to all 100,000+ signatories to this petition – you understood how vital this change is for the future of our students. We are overwhelmed by your collective voice. Our hearts go out to those families who shared tragic stories in which difficulties were sometimes overcome but far too many left bereaved. We have just witnessed a wave of compassion from the public - recognition that a more compassionate culture is needed in Higher Education (HE) and that a legal duty of care is at its foundation.

We now ask that The Government does the right thing and holds the much-needed debate. It must give voice to our supporters, consider what needs to change and revisit the sector's duty of care standards. It is clear that the public expects more from our HE institutions.

It is time to recognise the special relationship that universities have with their students. Young adults looking to find themselves are investing 10's of thousands in education. Our universities should be a stepping-stone to adulthood, a path to success but for too many it's a stone from which they will fall. We have a mental health crisis in our young and it is totally foreseeable that action (or inaction) that affects the student journey could have consequences for student mental health. Universities must do more to support students and ensure they are getting value for money.

Lee Fryatt, a member of The LEARN Network and author of the petition, lost his son Daniel to suicide, which he believes would have been prevented had there been a proper understanding and commitment to duty of care. He explains:

“Where universities have some measure of control, for example, dismissal, fitness to study, extenuating circumstances and failed exams, they must take reasonable steps to protect the student. Consideration of the impact on the mental health of the student should be at the core of all decision making and so should a legal duty of care”.

The LEARN Network would like to give a special ‘thank you’ to the brave families who put their tragedies under the media spotlight to inspire so many to help prevent future deaths.

We have until Sunday 19th of March to get as many signatures as possible. Please share the petition and drive home our demand for a compassionate culture in higher education, NOW.

Contact: admin@thelearnnetwork.org.uk

Web: thelearnnetwork.org.uk

Petition: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/622847>