

Communication to Partners: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Colleagues,

We hope you and your families are staying safe and well, and we thank you for your patience and continuing commitment to our Partnership, whilst we navigate these unprecedented times.

### **Plans Moving Forward**

At the university, our senior management teams are meeting regularly in order to discuss our plans moving forward. There is a lot to think about of course and much of our strategy is, as yet, unknown and wholly reliant on external advice from the Government. Importantly we will continue to put the health and wellbeing of our staff, students and partners at the forefront of any decisions we make. With this in mind, we are planning several scenarios in terms of the way placements can be managed in 2020-21, depending upon the advice we receive. We understand that different local authorities may advise different strategies however, **it would help us enormously if you could begin to share with us your initial plans around re-opening your setting, and the road ahead, so that we may ensure that any decisions we make complement those of our partnership.** Please do respond to this email if you can and let us know. Alternatively, if you would prefer to speak with someone this can be arranged.

### **Payments for Placements**

Many of you were hosting, or due to host, our trainees as placements were suspended. **We have taken the decision to ensure that any school or educational setting that was hosting placements, up until July 2020, continues to receive the remuneration associated with that placement.** You will receive payments in the usual way during the period after placements would have been completed. We hope this goes some way in ensuring that your budgets in terms of your involvement in ITE with Hope are unaffected, and in confirming our commitment to you as a valued partner.

In the meantime we will continue to communicate with you regularly and keep you up to date with any decisions that are made at the university.

Sincere thanks for your commitment and understanding during this period of uncertainty.

Very best wishes,

Louise

Head of Professional Formation