



Dear Helen,

We are reaching out to request a meeting to discuss support for students struggling with the cost of living crisis. The cost of living crisis is likely to have a significant impact on all the students in our diverse student body. With inflation now passing 10% (ONS), we must now act so that students can not only survive but thrive through their university experience.

Here in Suffolk, we have a growing student population contributing to the economy of the county, however right now students are feeling disenfranchised and are unable to participate in community life and a staggering 96% of students are cutting back (NUS national data).

What are they cutting back on?

- 77% have cut back on socialising
- 69% have cut back on clothes
- 52% are spending less on food
- 42% have cut back on heating
- 42% have cut back on transport
- 41% have cut back on healthcare

11% of students across the country are using food banks, 46% can no longer afford course materials, 33% are using credit cards, 29% have taken loans from family, 24% are using buy now and pay later schemes, and 12% have taken out bank loans. One third of students have considered dropping out of their studies due to finances, whilst 1 in 3 students are left with less than £50 a month after paying rent and bills. 90% say it is affecting their mental health. All of this is before the winter months when energy costs and inflation are set to rise even further, with little support on the horizon.

We would like to discuss:

- Reviewing the total funds available to students and the accessibility of university financial support.
- Reducing the additional costs faced by students studying at the University of Suffolk.
- The establishment of a task force on the cost of living with key university staff, stakeholders, and related organisations from the local community.

We intend to keep our students updated on our Cost-of-Living campaign and will be making this communication public. We look forward to your response and working with you on this to improve the lives and experience of our students.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Gooch and Meg Wright

A. Gooch

M. Wright