



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

**AN UPDATE FROM
VICE CHANCELLOR,
PROFESSOR PETER SLEE**

Dear ,

I do hope this finds you well.

At LBU we define our purpose as making “a positive and decisive difference to people, organisations and communities, through excellent education, research and service”. And one of the important roles we play is as an inclusive ‘anchor’ organisation with the diverse communities of our city, ensuring that everyone benefits from the work we do and the way we conduct ourselves.

Here is a wonderful example of how dedicated colleagues make this work in practice. Dr Philomena Commons is a senior lecturer in physiotherapy in our School of Health. She has worked with St George’s Crypt, a charity for homeless people, for over a decade. Homelessness is hard on health. 73% of homeless people live with long-term physical and mental illness and disability. Philomena began working as a volunteer offering physiotherapy support. Over the years she has built much of her teaching around the delivery of health support to people who turn to St George’s for help. You can read more [here](#).

What Philomena demonstrates so clearly is that our anchor work is win-win. People suffering the most acute disadvantage, benefit from compassionate and skilled professional support which otherwise would be beyond them. Our students are experiencing a deep and fulfilling educational experience which prepares them more effectively for employment. And this work forms a powerful basis for applied research which supports the development of best practice throughout the wider community.

I know of more than 300 examples of this kind of anchor work at LBU which underpins our value to our city and to wider society.

Thank you for the role you play in our important work.

Please take good care and stay safe.

Peter

Professor Peter Slee, Vice Chancellor

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