

Queen's Students' Union: Full-Time Student Officer Report

Role: Student Officer Welfare

Name: Jess Hindley

Period Covered: September 2023

Introduction

As the Welfare Officer, my role is to represent the interests of students in all matters related to their welfare. This is a broad remit which includes improving issues related to housing, accommodation, student safety, physical health, sexual health, mental health, and wellbeing. To achieve this, I lobby relevant departments and people within the university and local government; engage with external and internal groups; and run student events throughout the year.

My main priorities this year include tackling issues relating to student housing, implementing comprehensive drug harm reduction mechanisms across Queen's, and fostering a consent culture across campus.

NOTE: From July 1st to September 15th, I was working 4 days a week in order to complete my master's dissertation

Training

- **Look After Your Mate** training

Meetings

- Meeting with the **Bar Manager** to discuss **drink stoppers and spiking test kits**
- Meeting with the Wellbeing Advisor who manages **consent initiatives** at the university
- Met with **Residential Advisors** (RAs) from Queen's Accommodation
- Meeting with **Queen's Gender Initiative** along with SO Equality and Diversity
- **QUBeWell Management Board** meeting discussing the **Student Mental Health Charter**
- Met with the **Neighbourhood Police Officer** for the University area

Events

- **Freshers' Fortnight** – organising and carrying out these events was the main focus of this month for the whole officer team. Events which I ran, co-ran, or assisted with were:
 - Meet the Officers – Giant Games and Donuts; RAG Pub Crawl; The Big Brunch; The SU Mixer; Create and Chat; Freshers Fair
 - Facilitated Common Youth's on-site STI Testing on the first day of the Freshers' Fair

Campaigns

- Continued lobbying the university to sign up to the **Drug and Alcohol Impact (DAI) Programme**
- Began working on the **automatic-voter registration** campaign