

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

Role: Student Officer Welfare

Name: Jess Hindley

Period Covered: November 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.

Meetings

- Attended **EPS Wellbeing Committee** to learn about the priorities and activities of the faculty
- SO meeting with the **Students' Union's Social Prescribing Coordinator** to discuss student feedback sessions
- Meeting with **UCU Representatives** to discuss ongoing collaboration and priorities
- Meeting with the **Consent Ambassadors** and the SO Equality and Diversity to design a Consent Survey
- Took part in the **Appeals, Conduct and Complaints training** process which enables me to support students through the conduct procedures
- Participated in **UMHC Insight Sharing Event** on Mental Health and Drug Use/ Drug Harm Reduction with representatives from universities across the UK
- Meeting with the Strategic Project Lead for Education and Student Services to discuss the future of the **student welcome experience**
- Meeting with the **Pro Vice Chancellor for Education and Student Services** about implementing consent training as part of the welcome week experience

Events

- Attended and gave a speech at the **induction session for academic representatives**
- Attended and Participated in the **Student Assembly: Planetary Crisis**
- Participated in the **Big Autumn Clean Up**
- Attended multiple **demonstrations** across Belfast in solidarity with the **Palestinian people**
- Attended **Reclaim the Night** – an annual march calling for an end to violence against women and girls

Campaigns

- Assisted with the promotion of the **NUS-USI Student Survey**
- Approval was gained from the Students' Union, the University Disability and Wellbeing Service, and the Accommodation team to fund the **Drug and Alcohol Impact** programme
- **Consent** – Attended multiple meetings of the Consent Committee to bring together the various consent initiatives being undertaken into one cohesive campaign