

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

Role: Student Officer Welfare

Name: Jess Hindley

Period Covered: September 2024

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 government; engage with external and internal groups; and lead the Drug and Alcohol Impact (DAI) programme

My main priorities this year are drug and alcohol harm reduction, the Belfast Student Housing Co-Operative, and improving student safety. Due to the intensity of running the DAI programme, I have listed all of its related activities under a separate section of these reports.

General meetings and activities

- **Delivering induction presentations**– This involved preparing and presenting multiple inductions presentations across multiple schools and included one of the major inductions given to schools piloting the new welcome programme.
- **Scam Awareness Committee** - Attended the scam awareness committee where key date were discussed for scam awareness over the next academic year
- **SU Advice catch-up** –Met with SU Advice to discuss major trends and any ongoing issues within the student body that we may be able to campaign on
- **Advance HE: Building Belonging** – Worked in the cross-university team to understand Belonging in the university context and how we can enhance belonging for our students.
- **Marketing filming** - Participated in filming for SU Marketing's Freshers' content
- **See/Say/Signpost** Participated in wellbeing training in how to most effectively help students experiencing issues with their wellbeing
- **Delivering the pilot welcome programme** – Monday 16th was the pilot of the new whole-university welcome programme. The SO team attended all the inductions for the pilot schools and led tours throughout the Students' Union
- **Freshers' Fair** –I spent some time helping with the Student Officer stall promoting the rep system but I spent most of the fair at the Drug and Alcohol Impact stall (see below)
- **#QUBeWell Management Group** –We discussed our action plan and priorities for the year
- **Queen's Sport meeting** – Met with Queen's Sport alongside the SU Clubs and Societies team to discuss ongoing matters across sport at Queen's. Mostly on the expected new trans people in sport policy. Also discussed sporting risk assessment, annual fund system review, PEC statistics and the new intervarsity plans.
- **Academic Services introduction** – Student Officer team meeting with the Academic Services heads to share our priorities and learn about where our projects align

Drug and Alcohol Impact programme

- Met with the DAI SU team to discuss plans for Freshers (including comms) and prepare for a September all-SU staff briefing on the DAI programme

- Attended the USI Welfare meeting where I discussed the DAI programme with Welfare officers from across the island of Ireland.
- Chaired a meeting of the Drug and Alcohol Impact Steering Group where we discussed plans for the Freshers' period and different departments progression through the programme.
- Monthly support call with SOS-UK to discuss our plans for the Freshers' stall where we were given some suggested improvements to the activities we were going to run and advice on how to track engagement. We also discussed naloxone, effective communication and how to bring in clubs and societies
- Freshers' Fair stall – The drug and alcohol awareness stall was held on the second and third day of Freshers' Fair, once outside and once inside. I manned the stand for a significant portion of those days, actively encouraging people to engage with the activities and teaching other staff members how to run the stand. It was very successful with over 600 students actively engaging.
- Met with Leeds University an Students' Union to share ideas for the programme, specifically how their drug and alcohol support drop-in works and how best to collect evidence for accreditation
- Attended the Digital Alcohol IBA catch-up where we learned some more about the resources being sent to us and discussed sober curiosity and non-alcoholic events
- I helped at the drug and alcohol awareness stall at the University's Beats and Bites event
- I delivered a presentation on the DAI programme, our progress so far and our intentions as a Union to all SU staff during our monthly all-staff meeting

Events

- **The Big Brunch** – I ran a station at the Big Brunch as part of our Freshers' line-up
- **George Mitchell Institute celebration** – attended the dinner celebrating the contributions of Senator George J Mitchell