

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

**Role:** Student Officer Welfare

**Name:** Jess Hindley

**Period Covered:** December 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

- **#QUBeWell Management Group** – Meeting to discuss wellbeing initiatives across the university and plan activity for the new year
- **Social Prescribing update** – Attended a meeting with relevant stakeholders across the university to learn about the progress of the social prescribing programme which has displayed 100% satisfaction rates since it began
- **SU Advice Catch Up** – Discussed emerging issues with SU Advice specifically regarding disciplinary action, new approaches to academic offences, and the digitisation of academic appeals
- **SU Campaigns Committee** – Attended the first meeting of the SU Campaigns Committee specifically to discuss student engagement with the consent training campaign and drug harm reduction campaign which I lead, and the co-operatives campaign which I co-lead.
- **Testing the digital academic appeals system** – Engaged with training for and the testing of the new digital academic appeals system, giving my feedback on improvements
- **Student Association meeting** – Attended a meeting designed to engage further with Student Associations
- **Scam Awareness** – Attended a meeting on scam awareness to discuss how we can best promote scam awareness to students. Current efforts have been shown to lead to more students seeking scam advice
- **NUS-USI meeting** – Meeting with NUS-USI, UU and SERC Union to discuss our activities over the past few months and consider how we can work together going forward into the new year with a specific focus on a new NI union commitment to tackling Violence and Women and Girls
- **NUS President meeting** – Met with the NUS president to discuss my views on the national union and how we can shape up national changes over the coming year
- **Commercial Services Forum** – Discussed the financial situations of the SU Shop and SU Bar with the relevant managers
- **Compassionate Communications** – met with my fellow co-chairs of the Compassionate Communications project to plan for the year ahead

### Drug and Alcohol Impact programme

- Meeting with the DAI SU team to discuss our plans for and progress on the SU-assigned DAI criteria; further discussion on staff training options
- Preparation for running a DAI awareness stand in accommodation
- Monthly support call with SOS-UK to discuss survey progress and how we will use the data when we receive it; discussion of how we could continue with the digital IBA programme in a way that contributes towards the DAI programme; discussion of how to evidence some criteria
- Presented a detailed progress report on the DAI programme to the Student Union Council
- Continued to promote the DAI survey and harm reduction information by running awareness stands across campus
- Attended the whole of the Drug and Alcohol Impact Group Support Day where representatives from all institutions that participate in the DAI programme to reflect on welcome week progress, learn more about how other institutions have: involved students in their programme; engaged academics in their programme; have produced comms and publicity (for which I presented our commitment statement); how some police officers in the UK have been working to push for harm reduction; ideas for interventions.

### Events

- **SU Festive events** – Participated in the SU Christmas events including the SU Volunteer celebration event
- **RAG Coffee Morning** – attended the RAG coffee morning to raise money for RAG
- **Graduations** – Processing in student graduations