

Vice President Community and Welfare – Term One Report

Hours worked from 1st August-31st October: 507/450 contacted

Meetings attended from 1st August – 31st October: 359

Mental Health:

Nightline is due to launch in December, we have secured budget from the university, 200+ students signed up to volunteer, our first cohort of volunteers trained, and our policies in place.



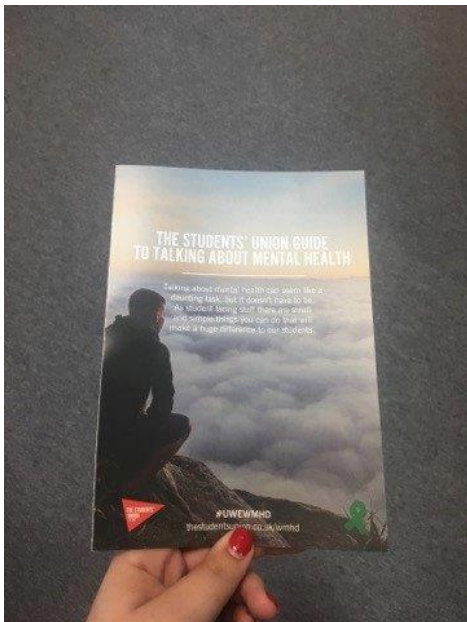
For World Mental Health Day we ran a series of events from encouraging students to treat themselves by making self-care packs, raising over £200 for Bristol Mind, selling green ribbons, talking about mental health with students, getting students to make pledges, as well as launching the student wellbeing survey.

The survey was filled in by 1,961 students, we did targeted interventions with certain groups such as male students to try and boost their participation in the survey.

The data is now being analysed and compiled into a report that will be co-written with the university. It will have recommendations for improvements to services, which should lead to further investment in the Wellbeing service.

I am working with UWE for their Universities UK Step Change audit, which looks at their current mental health provision, and what improvements need to be made.

I wrote a guide aimed at Academic Personal Tutors on how to speak about mental health to students, and where to signpost them to. This has gone alongside lobbying the university to provide compulsory mental health training for their APTs.



I am in ongoing meetings with the university about the rent survey ran in January, and looking at how the recommendations made can be met. This survey is likely to be rerun in January to provide more evidence to the university on their student's experiences with their accommodation.

We launched Halls Life Committee positions which I helped promote, I also attended their training to speak about joined up work. The committees will be vital in ensuring better representation for students living in halls.

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ACORN

Tenants Union and Anti-Poverty Organising Group

ACORN is a tenants union, a community organisation, a support network, an anti-poverty organising group. Too many of us – renters, workers, families – are being treated as second class citizens. ACORN want equality.

Their fight for housing justice was started by 100 people in 1 neighbourhood. Today they're 20,000 strong and have representation in towns and cities across the UK. They have tackled rogue landlords, prevented evictions and made politicians sit up and pay attention.

If you'd like to join their campaign or volunteer to start something, visit: acorntheunion.org.uk/

Help them to support and defend those who can't by themselves, build a powerful local organisation and develop the leadership needed in our local communities.

I have worked with ACORN to get them into 'The Student Living Guide' which goes out to students in private accommodation. This will help increase their visibility to our students. We are also asking the agencies that come to our accommodation fair to be working towards, or signed up to the ethical lettings charter.

The Presidents have been in discussions over laundry prices in UWE Accommodation, following a student idea and are doing research on this issue to try and get concessions made around this.

Community:

The presidents are launching their Bingo Night on November 30th, which will be a new regular event that doesn't solely revolve around alcohol. For those who don't drink sometimes it can be hard to find events to go to, and I think this will be a really positive step forward in providing more social opportunities for our students, combatting isolation they might be facing.



Our proposition for the University to act as a guarantor has now been approved by the International Student Experience Group and is getting presented to the directorate by the Pro Vice Chancellor of Student Experience.

I will be working on prayer space with Zain in the coming months, and looking at NFI funding with Bahkai too.

Sexual Health:

Myself and the team have started the planning process for SHAG Week, we will be working with the University Health Centre to do a Chlamydia Test Drive with our sports clubs, societies and Halls Life. We have also approached Debate Society to run a debate around sexual relations similar to last year's one. There is going to be a huge amount of activity run, and we are really looking forward to it.

We are looking at running drop in clinics for HIV Fast Testing during the week too, in partnership with The Terrance Higgins Trust.



Glenside.

Welfare Committee:

This year I have formed a Welfare Committee who champion student wellbeing causes, campaign for improvements and raise awareness of different issues. They were instrumental in delivering World Mental Health Day, and I will be working with them closely on a range of other events and activities.

It has been great settling down with a new team, and I am really excited to see how the year unfolds.

Erin and I have gotten sexual health added as a standing agenda item at the Healthy University Group, this will help raise the profile of student sexual health. We have also been having conversations with the university at many different levels to try and push this up the universities agenda.

Course Costs:

Myself and Jamie have been in discussions with the university directorate about cutting different course costs. One of our key aims in to cut the price of ACE Degree shows. This has been discussed with the faculty dean and directorate, and we are hoping to hear some progress shortly.

I have worked with the university to get additional grants of £500 year on year for all Gloucester campus students, which reflects the fact that their experience is different to Frenchay, City Campus and