

'Hot topics' in accommodation



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Hot topics

- Accommodation costs
- Registering to vote
- Community issues
- Getting the message out about the codes
- Crime prevention and reduction

- Last year, 42% of first year students we surveyed were living in university-owned accommodation, a further 10% of students in 2nd, third or final years also lived in such accommodation

Source: NUS/HSBC Student Experience Report 2008

- Students – often first time renters – therefore have a fantastic opportunity to leave halls with a good experience of how a well managed property and tenancy should look and function.
- Can set a level of expectation that can then influence students' future experiences of renting, and living in the community

Accommodation Costs

- Kelvin Mackenzie's 'crusade' on rent

The Sun, August 2009

- 'Student accommodation at an uncool £120'

The Guardian, 29th August 2009

- 'Tiny student digs: a snip at £548'

The Times, 11th October 2009



Accommodation Costs

42%

of institutions
responded

45%

of bedspaces

- Survey open from July to September
- Data gathered by IGraduate
- Steering panel first meeting 5th November 2009
- **Thank you** to those who responded
- Report will be launched at an event in the new year

Accommodation Costs

- '50,000 students' in loan delays'

BBC News, 17th September 2009

- 'Student loan delay hits 175,000 students'

Telegraph, 9th October 2009

- 'NUS calls for loans chief to resign'

Guardian, 27th October 2009



Community

- Community issues – noise, litter, poor quality housing, a loss of 'community', car parking, ASB
- Huge media attention
- Still awaiting announcement from Secretary of State for Communities on what course of action will be taken
- Launch of NUS/UUK publication, 'Living Together, Working Together' in the New Year



Hot Topics in Accommodation: UUK ACoP AGM November 2009



Voter registration

- General election in 2010
- Huge opportunity to impact on the electoral turnout in your constituency
- You can block register your tenants to vote
- If you would like further information, please contact susan.nash@nus.org.uk



Crime reduction and prevention

- NUS project part of Government's *Real Help in Hard Times* initiative
- Home Office focus on crime in a recession
- Priority is vulnerable groups – elderly, uninsured, students

SECURING HOMES ACTION AGAINST BURGLARY



Extent of student victimisation

- Students are victims of crime
- Burglary significantly via insecure entry
- Halls of residence – able to act as a buffer to living in privately rented housing sector
- Impacts of fear of crime on residents present and future

Reducing crime against students

- Safer **environments** (less facilitating for crime)
- Increased **awareness** from students regards their personal safety
- Collective **responsibility** for crime prevention in student neighbourhoods and campuses
- Increased **reporting** of incidents, of insurance uptake, and improvement of support services to student victims

The need for review:

- Insufficient guidance at present
- Good management practice concerning security elaborated
- Design capabilities questioned
- Wider consultation and reaching consensus
- Realistic, Achievable and Adaptable guidance
- Timeframe: January–March 2010

Questions?

- Please find us around today or email us:

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Thanks for listening