

## Welfare Zone motion and report

**Author:** Shelly Asquith

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**Action:** Approve

### Section 1 | Priorities for 2016-17

Projects	Objectives / Progress
Housing	<p><b>Objectives</b></p> <p>To ensure students are able to navigate the housing sector and have greater access to safe, affordable, appropriate housing, primarily by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Working with unions to equip students with greater knowledge of private rented sector, their rights and responsibilities.</li><li>• Providing support to students taking action on the cost of purpose-built accommodation and work with respective unions to resource campaigns.</li><li>• Providing accurate and exclusive information on the state of student housing – a follow up to “Homes Fit For Study” research.</li></ul> <p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New guidance in form of website, booklets and online training: <a href="http://www.readytorent.nus.org.uk">www.readytorent.nus.org.uk</a></li><li>• Promoted Ready To Rent at SU Housing Fairs</li><li>• Run training events for students and officers</li><li>• Mobilisation PBA campaigns and enforced sanctions on those breaking code</li><li>• Conducted research into housing conditions</li><li>• Responded to Housing White Paper and communicated progress of it to SUs</li><li>• Produced new housing guidance and campaign material</li><li>• Continued to represent students on national housing Codes</li><li>• Supported rent strikes with legal advice and financial aid</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Took part in DCLG consultation on HMO licensing</li> </ul>
Health	<p><b>Objectives</b></p> <p>To support students and their unions to understand current health-related issues affecting students and to campaign on a local level, in particular by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing members with a clear UK-wide picture of what is happening to NHS services and institutional mental health support.</li> <li>• Establishing greater links between the student movement, sector trade unions and community campaigns.</li> <li>• Capturing an understanding of drug use amongst student populations through new research.</li> <li>• Challenging the FE/HE sectors on counseling provision.</li> <li>• Expanding the Alcohol Impact project, supporting Unions in tackling alcohol-related issues on and off campus.</li> </ul> <p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zone Conference a summit to bring different health campaigns together</li> <li>• Launched Scrap Prescription Charges campaign</li> <li>• Ran support days for Alcohol Impact and supported participating unions</li> <li>• Met with many external organisations on collaborative work, from BMA and BACP to UUK and Drink Aware</li> <li>• Supported the delivery of the UUK Mental Health Annual Conference</li> <li>• Took part in investigation into so-called “study drugs”</li> <li>• Worked with DSC to develop an app to support campaigns for mental health services</li> <li>• Supported IPPR / UUK research into mental health services</li> <li>• Worked with DSC and BACP to target support to colleges and sixth forms under pressure from service cuts</li> <li>• Produced guidance on how to influence CCGs and Transformation projects</li> <li>• Supported industrial action by NHS staff, provided guidance to SUs on junior doctor’s dispute and continued working with health sector trade unions.</li> <li>• Continued to lobby on re-instatement of the NHS bursary.</li> </ul>

Students Not Suspects	<p><b>Objectives</b></p> <p>To challenge the Prevent Duty and support students and their Unions dealing with it locally, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making challenges to Government(s) and political leaders about the dangers of the Duty and the union's opposition to it.</li> <li>• Providing Unions and student activists with more resources to better understand and campaign on the issue.</li> <li>• Resourcing practical workshops on campuses and establishing a telephone helpline for those needing immediate support.</li> <li>• Build stronger links with education sector trade unions and encourage those relationships on a local level.</li> <li>• Providing information on campus prayer space and campaign resources for taking action on the issue.</li> </ul> <p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosted a successful fringe at Party Conference(s)</li> <li>• Launched a Students Not Suspects hub on nusconnect with all relevant information and guidance</li> <li>• Launched and staffed a helpline for students and officers</li> <li>• Delivered workshops on campuses</li> <li>• Issued new guidance</li> <li>• Provided resources for interfaith fortnight and Right To Pray</li> <li>• Worked with London Higher and FOSIS to conduct research on prayer space</li> <li>• Published guidance on Cops Off Campus policy</li> </ul>
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## Section 2 | Zone Policy

Policy	Progress
Please bear in mind this policy dates back three years, and so much of this was covered in my report to conference in 2016! ☺	
4 NC_W_14301: Homes Fit For Study	See "Housing"
NC_W_14302: Local Public Services	See "Health" and "Housing"
7 NC_W_14303: Stand Up To Racism	See "Students Not Suspects"
10 NC_W_14304: Childcare For All And Not Just For One	Supported student parents and carers' roundtable, defending childcare allowance in NHS bursary lobbying process and raised childcare funding in the Student Loan Company stakeholder board. Supported the creation of Student With Caring Responsibilities rep in NUS by drafting the motion to conference.
11 NC_W_14306: Mental Health – Away From Awareness, Towards Action	See "Health"
12 NC_W_14307: Condemn "Student Rights" And Support Islamophobia Awareness	See "Students Not Suspects"
15 NC_W_14309: International Students	See "Housing" and "Students Not Suspects"
15 NC_W_14310: Access without Support Is Not Opportunity	Ongoing through work on student funding and finance and engagement with sector (inc SLC)
18 NC_W_15301: Supporting For Success: Getting the Most Out Of Student Support Services	Supported in-depth research into student support services, as well as providing campaign tools for students in order to make the case for improved mental health support.
NC_W_15302: No Room for Unfair Housing	See "Housing"
23 NC_W_15304: Mental Health – Away From Awareness, Towards Action	See "Health"
23 NC_W_15303: Stand Up To Racism and Scapegoating	See "Students Not Suspects"
NC_W_15307: Free Prescriptions For Students In England	See "Health"
NC_W_15308: Eating Equality: Improving the Catering Provisions for Students with Dietary Requirements	To be completed before end of term
33 Motion 401 NUS for the NHS	See "Health"
33 Motion 402   SOS – Save Our Services	Ongoing work with relevant trade unions to produce guidance for lobbying work for relevant service providers. Also published "Campaigning in the Community" to encourage building networks on local campaigns.

27 NC_W_15306: Dealing With Debt	Conducted research into debt and mental health, and continued lobbying over levels of debt, e.g. grants replaced with loans, and the targeting of students by loan sharks such as Smart Pig. Mobilised for Nov 19 national demonstration.
34 Motion 403   #Grantsnotdebt	Helped to mobilise for Nov19, as well as the campaign to save/re-instate maintenance grants.
36 Motion 404   Anti-Semitism on Campus	Provided materials to SUs on working alongside faith organisations, supported the creation of hate-crime roundtables with one looking specifically at anti-Semitism. Continued to meet with relevant student groups nationally and on campuses to discuss issues and targeted work. Introduced specific training for Officer Development and curated an exhibition on a campus for Holocaust Memorial Day which discussed impact of anti-Semitism then and now.
37 Motion 405   Prioritise Students Mental Health – Now!	See “Health”
38 Motion 406   Preventing Prevent	See “Students Not Suspects”
41 Motion 407   Not for Profit Halls	See “Housing”
45 Motion 408   Rent Strikes	See “Housing”
45 3 Motion 409   Rogue Landlords	See “Housing”
46 Motion 410   Graduation: the final hidden cost	Preparing to submit a paper to Universities UK with a proposal for universities to support poorer students with the cost of graduation
47 Motion 411   Educate all FE & HE students on the risks associated with taking legal highs and lobby the government to include all legal highs within the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971	I have submitted an application for a piece of research to be conducted into drug use amongst students, so we can better understand which students are taking which drugs and in which types of campuses, so that all material we produce is targeted.
48 NC_W_13306: Mental Health Awareness and Challenging Discrimination	See “Health”