

Personal Housing Plan

Blueprint for a #HomeAtUniversity

The Big Idea

Imagine trying to study, work, and plan your future... while constantly worrying about where you'll live.

For care-experienced and estranged students, housing decisions aren't just choices, they're high stakes that determine choices before during and throughout the university journey.

The Big Idea behind Room 2 of the Blueprint is simple:



Every student should have a clear, supported personal housing plan.

Why This Matters

All students think about housing – where, when, how much. But for some students, the implications are much bigger, and at the same time they may be less likely to have someone trusted to talk it through with.

Without support, this can mean:

😬 Constant stress about future housing ⚠️ Real risk of homelessness at transition points

📦 Last-minute decisions with limited options

🚫 Not asking for help due to stigma or lack of trust

And just like Room 1, the impacts:

Mental health

Academic focus

Confidence and belonging



If housing isn't planned, it quickly becomes a crisis.

What Good Looks Like

When this room is “built”, housing situations for care-experienced and estranged students are always known, not just when things go wrong.

Strong approaches include:



Accommodation planning for the full university journey is explicitly at the heart of welcome and induction



Housing discussed routinely in consistent check-ins alongside finance, wellbeing, and study



A regular contact students can build trust with



The key shift: From “students ask for help” to “support checks in with students.”

In Practice: University of Bath

At Bath, this room is built into the student experience:

- ✓ One-to-one meetings every semester, every year, as a standard aspect of bursary receipt
- ✓ A consistent holistic agenda where students know there'll be safe space to discuss any aspect of their student life
- ✓ Housing always part of the conversation, alongside study, wellbeing and finances
- ✓ Dedicated support for care-experienced, estranged students, carers, and others

These conversations aren't siloed; they identify any issues as they emerge and connect students to support early should they ever need it without **reaching crisis**. Around 260 students engage with their system each year.



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What to Watch For

Even well-designed systems need careful delivery:

Housing planning needs to feel safe, consistent, and non-judgemental

Students may still hesitate to disclose relevant information if 'student to university' conversations are not holistic

Housing should be an explicit conversation component for all students not just care-experienced and estranged populations



Trust is what makes this room work – not just process.

What This Means For SU Officers

Your role is to make sure planning isn't left to chance.

Ask your institution:

? Do students have routine opportunities to talk about housing fragility?

? Are these conversations proactive or reactive?

? Do students know who they can talk to – and trust them?

? Is housing treated as essential, or just if a student brings it up ?

And importantly:

 Highlight student experiences of "falling through the gaps"

 Spot where support relies too much on self-advocacy

 Push for consistent, relationship-based discussion models



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Key Takeaway

This isn't about paperwork or forms. It's about:

Staying ahead of risk

Building trust

And making sure no student is navigating alone



A #HomeAtUniversity isn't just about where you live – it's about knowing what comes next.



Next: Room 3

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