

Record Keeping

Blueprint for a #HomeAtUniversity

The Big Idea

Imagine trying to improve something without knowing what's working. That's the challenge this room tackles.

The Big Idea behind Room 3 of the Blueprint is simple:



Universities should consistently identify, record input, and track student outcomes; using that insight to improve accommodation systems and support.

Why This Matters

Care-experienced and estranged students are often a small and under-identified group. That means their experiences can easily be missed.

Without good data, universities can't answer key questions:



Are students staying and succeeding?



Are housing services contributing to retention?



Who is still being missed?

And when that happens:

Gaps stay hidden

Support isn't targeted

Progress is harder to measure



If it isn't recorded, it's much harder to improve



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What Good Looks Like

When this room is “built”, data becomes a tool for insight — not just reporting.

Strong approaches include:

-  Consistent identification of relevant students connecting outreach, accommodation, student support, and other teams to build a dynamic picture of the university population
-  Tracking participation in accommodation services uptake (e.g. rent guarantor scheme)
-  Following academic progress over time, not just at one moment
-  Using data actively to evaluate and improve retention



The key shift: From “we think this works” to “we can see what works – and for who.”

In Practice: Heat (Higher Education Access Tracker)

HEAT shows how this room can work at scale:

- ✓ Tracks students from outreach into university and beyond
- ✓ Links data with national datasets (i.e. HESA)
- ✓ Captures participation in interventions like accommodation services over time
- ✓ Enables comparison between different student groups

It doesn't just show who gets in, it helps universities understand individual and aggregated journeys. Data can be visualised and analysed to identify patterns, gaps, and impact. This tool can inform your Blueprint work long-term and help you accurately articulate the connection between housing services and degree completion. Many universities are existing members of HEAT with staff usually housed in Outreach or APP teams – build these relationships to leverage it for your needs.



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What to Watch For

Good record keeping isn't just about systems:

Students may not always be identified or recorded consistently

Definitions (e.g. estranged vs care-experienced) can vary

Data may be collected but not meaningfully used



The real value comes from using available data to inform actions.

What This Means For SU Officers

You don't need to run the data – but you do need to ask the right questions.

Ask your institution:

? Are care-experienced and estranged students clearly identified?

? Do we track who is accessing support like housing schemes?

? How often is this data reviewed – and by who?

? What has changed as a result?

And importantly:

Push for transparency and accountability

Highlight where student experiences aren't reflected in data

Advocate for evidence-led decision making



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Key Takeaway

This isn't about spreadsheets. It's about:

Visibility

Accountability

And making sure no group of students is overlooked



When you can see what's happening, you can start to change it.



Next: Room 4

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