



Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 11th November 2019

Briefing Note: Facilities for Students – What facilities NBC offers for students around the town and borough, including housing and leisure facilities

- 1.1 At a recent meeting of the Scrutiny Panel, a Briefing Paper was requested regarding facilities NBC offers for students around the town and borough, including housing and leisure facilities.
- 1.2 Whilst the services, events and facilities provided or supported by the council are inclusive, the facilities offered particularly for students are briefly outlined below.

2 Housing

- 2.1 The Housing Enforcement Team designed a Dos and Don'ts Checklist for students looking for student housing. This was well received at the University of Northampton Freshers Fair where the Housing Enforcement team joined other members of the University's Multi Agency Student Housing Hub to improve students' housing.
- 2.2 The Housing Enforcement Team ensures students are living in a healthy, safe, well-managed home. They provide confidential advice and help for students experiencing any disrepair problems with their accommodation, any concerns about the condition of their gas or electricity supply or any worries that they do not have adequate fire precautions.
- 2.3 The Housing Enforcement team provide general advice and support for students living in a House in Multiple Occupation. The team also works with landlords to improve students' housing, through advice, support, and enforcement.
- 2.4 Properties that are occupied by full time students only are exempt from payment of Council Tax.

3 Leisure

- 3.1 Northampton Leisure Trust (NLT), on behalf of Northampton Borough Council, offer a SuperGold Student Membership covering the gym, pool and classes at all sites for a reduced monthly fee plus an initial admin fee. This is offered on a no contract basis.
- 3.2 NLT also offer a Cripps Student Budget Membership covering the gym, pool, classes, MyRide (virtual cycling), at the Cripps Recreation centre for a reduced monthly fee. This is offered on a no contract and no joining fee basis.
- 3.3 NLT offers a 9 month Cripps Student Membership scheme covering the gym, pool, MyRide and classes at Cripps Recreation Centre. This is offered on a one off payment upfront basis which represents a lower cost than that of 9 months use of the Cripps Student Budget Membership.

3.4 As part of wider work on a Museums membership scheme launching next year, the Museum service will be looking at a student membership package, and events for students will be promoted accordingly, for example the Steam Punk weekend in May 2020.

4 Community Partnerships

4.1 For young people aged 11 to 19 the council runs the Youth Forum to engage young people in conversations and involve them in decision making. The annual International Youth Day is organised by the Community Partnerships team and Youth Forum.

4.2 The Community Partnerships team supports the taxi marshalling and safer routes initiative to support students in the night time economy. The team also arranges bike marking and personal safety events aimed at students.

4.3 The Community Partnerships team arranges primary school and secondary school community safety awareness events – delivering key community safety messages around hate crime, anti-social behaviour, gangs, knives, cyber bullying, personal, water and fire safety.

4.4 Partnership Grant funding to support Street Pastors, Free2Talk, Warts and All theatre and the Lowdown, all supporting young people, is administered by the Community Partnerships team.

4.5 The council secured significant funding through the Home Office trusted relationships fund, to deliver the 'True Knowledge' programme, youth provision being delivered by Free 2 Talk in Blackthorn, Spring Boroughs and Semilong and in the Town Centre (tackling knife crime and child sexual exploitation).

5 Other services for students

5.1 The council's Elections team works in partnership with the University of Northampton to ensure all students are registered to vote. They attend the Freshers Fair and events in the Halls of Residence and in the Market Place to provide advice and guidance to students.

5.2 The council's Licensing team regulate taxi, driver and premises licences to protect the safety of students.

5.3 Parking at St Michael's car park is currently offered at a reduced rate for students using the Mounts leisure facilities.

5.4 Through student engagement events, the council offers volunteering opportunities to students e.g. at the Nightshelter