

Script for Conference Launch

### ***Over dancing house slide***

*Student voices*

I live in Nottingham and I pay £102 per week for my rent. I chose my house because it's near my lectures. It's okay, I've not had any real problems with it.

I live in London and I pay £182 per week for my rent. It's expensive because it's London and I don't think my house is value for money but what can you do?<sup>1</sup>

I come from Middlesbrough and I live with my mam and dad because I can't afford to rent a house. I feel like I'm missing out though, I can't do social stuff with my friends all the time or societies and that.<sup>2</sup>

### ***Over #whereilive street sign slide***

*Student voice*

I'm renting in Cardiff which is where I'm at uni – but when you think about it, you live in your head as well as where you physically live, don't you? If where you physically live isn't right, your head's not going to be right and that can be really hard.<sup>3</sup>

### ***Over “so confusing” slide***

*Student voice*

I signed for my student house ages in advance, I think it was seven months. I felt quite panicked because everybody was looking and I was worried about not having anywhere to live. To be honest I signed up for somewhere I can't really afford and I'm not sure what to do now I'm living there.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Source of figures: savethestudent.org National Student Accommodation Survey 2017 – Results (<http://www.savethestudent.org/accommodation/national-student-accommodation-survey-2017.html#issues>)

<sup>2</sup> Source: the NUS “Homes fit for study” report <https://www.nus.org.uk/PageFiles/12238/Homes%20Fit%20for%20Study%20report.pdf> says that “respondents from areas with low participation in higher education appear less likely to live in the private rented sector than those from the highest participation areas...indicating that cost may be a barrier to access”.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Shelter's report on the impact of housing problems on mental health ([http://england.shelter.org.uk/professional\\_resources/housing\\_and\\_mental\\_health](http://england.shelter.org.uk/professional_resources/housing_and_mental_health)) says that “General Practitioners (GPs) spontaneously identified housing issues when discussing factors involved in their patients' mental health presentations” and that “1 in 5 English adults (21%) said a housing issue had negatively impacted upon their mental health in the last 5 years”.

<sup>4</sup> Source: the NUS “Homes fit for study” report <https://www.nus.org.uk/PageFiles/12238/Homes%20Fit%20for%20Study%20report.pdf> says that “a fifth of respondents had signed for their properties seven or more months in advance of their move-in date, with some signs of panic. The most common reasons cited for beginning house-hunting were thinking that they would be left with no house (40%) or that the best houses would be taken (35%).

### **Over “signing a contract” sign**

#### *Student voices*

I had to pay a fee for my house, and for them to do a credit check as well. I didn't know about that when I looked at the property. I wish I'd got my Students' Union to check my tenancy agreement too – I didn't know they did that at the times.

My deposit? I don't know if I get that back. Isn't there something about a protection scheme? I've heard of it but I don't really know what it is.

### **Over NSMWS18 Empowering and Supporting Students slide**

#### *Adult voice*

Give your students the tools to make the right choices when it comes to their accommodation – take part in NSMW18.

- help them beat the January accommodation panic
- give them the information they need to choose accommodation they can afford
- publicise your tenancy-checking services

### **Over sighing student in house slide**

#### *Student voices*

Oh my God, when I lived in my first student house I was clueless – I didn't know how to use the washer or what to buy when I went food shopping or that having the electric heater on used loads of electricity or anything. I should have asked my Mum about all of this stuff, I could have saved so much money!

Our rooms haven't been decorated for 4-5 years so the carpets are horrible and stained. Had a lot of maintenance issues too. Not worth that amount of money a week, so expensive for a student.<sup>6</sup>

We had a massive electricity bill due to an issue with the water heater.<sup>7</sup>

I have had problems with one of my housemates for a while now... it really needs to be sorted asap. I don't need this extra stress in my 3rd year. Especially as I've had some medical issue of my own that means stress could do me a lot of harm.<sup>8</sup>

### **Over NSMWS18 Helping Students Save Money slide, cheering student in house slide and Problems Solved slide**

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<sup>5</sup> Source: the NUS “Homes fit for study” report

<https://www.nus.org.uk/PageFiles/12238/Homes%20Fit%20for%20Study%20report.pdf> says that “more than half of respondents (58%) reported having to pay one or more fees to secure their property and often they were not aware of these at the time of viewing the property. For example, just 43 per cent of those who had to pay for a credit check knew about this in advance.

<sup>6</sup> Direct quote from the savethestudent.org National Student Accommodation Survey 2017 – Results (<http://www.savethestudent.org/accommodation/national-student-accommodation-survey-2017.html#issues>)

<sup>7</sup> Direct quote from the savethestudent.org National Student Accommodation Survey 2017 – Results (<http://www.savethestudent.org/accommodation/national-student-accommodation-survey-2017.html#issues>)

<sup>8</sup> Direct quote from studentroom.org (<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/showthread.php?t=1550474>)

*Adult voice*

Get your students thinking about the cost of living in student accommodation - take part in NSMW18.

- show your students how to budget for living in private rented accommodation
- give them tips and hints on meal planning and food shopping, keeping the bills down and getting that cleaning rota sorted
- help them to manage shared bills and other housemate issues
- educate them about neighbour issues

***Over #whereilive street sign slide***

*Adult voice*

Help your students make #whereilive the best possible place to be

***Over dancing house slide***

For practical advice, resources and inspiration visit <insert NSMW18 webpage here>