

Press release

ANUK/Unipol launch new code of standards for student accommodation

The Accreditation Network UK (ANUK) and Unipol Student Homes have today (Thursday 24 July 2008) launched a new code of standards to ensure that student accommodation is managed to the highest possible standards.

The new code, which has been created following a review and consultation process with representatives from across the education sector, aims to provide new and current students with a clear indication of the quality of student accommodation. The new code builds on an existing scheme operated by ANUK/Unipol for the education accommodation sector and incorporates changes and improvements specifically designed to ensure that the code is relevant to universities and colleges.

All universities and colleges are now able to sign up to the new code and can do so free of charge until January 2009. For information on joining procedures or to obtain a copy of the new code, please visit www.anuk.org.uk/LargeCode or contact Simon Kemp, National Code Administrator on 0113 205 3406.

Further development of the new code is planned for later in 2008 which is intended to give institutions the opportunity to achieve a star rating for provision of a range of additional features of interest to both students and their parents, such as sustainability and security. Educational institutions that score highly in these areas will have an advantage over others, so we can expect to see universities and colleges step up their marketing activity to promote their new and improved ratings to customers in what has become an extremely competitive marketplace.

Dennis Hopper, Chair of the review group, said: "This new code is a positive step forward for universities and colleges throughout the UK. Student accommodation is a key factor in the recruitment and retention of students, with many students keen to ensure that where they will be living is safe and secure and managed to the highest standards".

Ama Uzowuru, Vice President (Welfare) at NUS, said "The new code is an important step forward for students as it sets out, in one document, exactly what standards they should be expecting from their accommodation provider and tells them what action they can take if the standards are not being met.

The new code has been welcomed by the educational sector and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and it is anticipated that it will receive 'approved' status under the 2004 Housing Act by October 2008.

-ENDS-

Notes to editors:

The new code was launched on Thursday 24 July at the University of Leeds.

ANUK was formed in May 2002 to publicise, promote and share good practice in accreditation and is administered by UNIPOL Student Homes based in Leeds.

'Approved' status means that all or some accommodation owned and managed by that provider which is listed under membership of the code is exempted from the need to apply for a separate license from the local housing authority.

For further information please contact:

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