

Wellbeing & Community Forum

Wednesday 4th February 18:00-20:00

Large Rehearsal Room & Teams delivery

Minutes

Apologies: Veronica Chiaravalli (International Students' Officer), Eden Hodgkins (Gender Equality Officer)

Present: Bill Shackman (BS, Interfaith Chaplain), Ros Claase (RC, Director of Student Experience), Sarah Browne (SB, Project Officer Student Services), Joely Nicol (JN, Student Services), Alex Chun (AC, PresWell), Jack McNealy (JM, Accommodation Officer, Chair), Elise Bateman (EB, Head of Student Engagement), Bartosz Rogala (BR, PeerSupport Co-ordinator), Zoe Bremner (ZB, Community Relations Officer), Talia Porter (TP, GotLimits Co-ordinator), Josh (DSN), Annie (Nightline), Orla (DSN), Joanna Barrow (JB, Student Health Officer), Holly McDonald (HMc, C&I Co-ordinator, Secretary).

Absent: Celina Chen (BAME Officer), Omar Raza (Widening Access & Participation Officer), Lucy Reynolds (EaCES), Caeleigh Alexander (Environment Officer)

Meeting starts: 18:07

1. Welcome & Introductions

Quick introductions were given by all.

2. Network/Officer updates

AC noted that Jay and Rachael have stepped down from their respective offices. The two deputy convenors of DSN are working together to lead the DSN, and we are working with CCMFL on what to do between now and Elections.

BR noted that 6 students on referrals from last semester continue working with PeerSupport. PeerSupport is working on a 'What is love?' campaign with a local primary school (linked to Valentines Day), with videos to be published in the Library and other spaces, where primary school children tell us what they think love means. They are also hoping to have a MH summit at end of semester with Change Mental Health, update to follow.

TP reported that GotLimits are working with Clued Up and Substance Support Scotland on referral process for students, and advertisement for support plans and sessions. Working on speaker event with SOS-UK, and drug testing kits and info sheets. They will also be running a sober May Dip event.

Josh & Orla reported that DSN gave out exam packs at the end of last semester. Society accessibility training now on Learnworlds and is mandatory, and they will look into an equivalent training for Networks. They are collaborating with various groups, and had an EGM where they recently elected 3 new committee members elected. They will be continuing LoA work.

Annie noted that a new Nightline Public Faces team was in post.

JB flagged that Wellbeing are continuing yoga soc and rec sport collabs. They are also hosting free sober arts and crafts events. May Dip packs to follow, and they are looking to work on wellbeing week on exam stress management and MH support. Wellbeing would love to work with others on events.

ZB is trying to work with Community Council on getting minutes accessible to everyone in St Andrews (not the case at present). They've been working with the Hamish Foundation on Castle Sands pool restoration (starting work in summer). Also working on Spare Spoon with Estates and others, and want to get word out about this for townspeople as it's for all, not just students.

3. Staff updates

JN explained their role within social media and comms for Student Services. Lately the team has been working on posts about the return to University after break, with more posts to follow throughout the year. JN also delivers mental health training for staff that work closely with students (delivered to over 500 staff).

EB flagged that the ASF will be held on Tuesday night, room TBC. There will be an update on Main Bar survey results (affordability, pricing, safety came up most). Floor will be open for discussion afterwards, and they can send topics to Alex for now. Looking to make the ASF flexible and supportive for students.

BS raised the vigil for Iran on 11th Feb in Buchanan, 4pm, all welcome. Chaplaincy has grief group monthly, and Interfaith group every other week (open to all). Pastoral listening 1:1 is available for anyone struggling with anything in life, no requirement for a faith background. Council for Christians and Jews student leadership programme are planning an event for later this term. Ramadan is coming up, busy preparing for this, trying to find appropriate prayer space.

SB noted that the SGBV policy for students has been approved and will go live soon, link to follow when ready. This will then lead to a resource review, to ensure language is consistent across webpages and policies.

RC noted that substance use and harm reduction commitment has been endorsed by PO now, watch this space for communication going forward. RC thanked student reps for their work on this. Following Jay's presentation on DSN spring survey, SES **MGM** are now looking at recommendations and offshoot projects. There is a

review of space usage and room purpose(s) across the estate. Guidance may follow on spaces that have multiple purposes so users know how the space may be used.

4. Potential ASC relocation (JN)

JN spoke to a presentation, outlining student polling at the Library. The polling explained what the ASC is, its purpose, and its current location. Currently well-used, but it is up some stairs so it's not very accessible. Not all students know what it is, or where it is. They are considering moving it to the Library due to accessibility and usage of the space.

240 students responded to the polling in 2hrs, with most students wanting it to remain in its current location. JN noted that if ASC moved to library, it would take away a slight amount of study space as they wouldn't want it to be in its own room (based on student feedback). JN then asked for input from the group.

There was an in-depth discussion from student members, flagging the lack of accessibility in the current location. They also however noted the need to ensure soundproofing in any new space, calm/warm lighting, and generally making any new space comfortable and confidential for students in distress.

They also flagged the need for a lower traffic entry/exit point for those wishing to use the ASC in the Library, and that students need to use their matric card to enter the Library and get through the barriers (or pay if you forget it), which would likely cause further issues for students already in distress seeking the ASC.

Comments were made that moving to the Library may increase ASC usage, and it would prevent the need for students who are upset in the Library to leave it in order to access help.

RC noted that based on previous discussions, the new ASC, if it moved, would be before the barriers, so students wouldn't need a matriculation card to access the ASC.

HMc secretarial note (6/2/2026): RC amended that this may not be the case, and the ASC, if moved, may be after the barriers.

JN asked members to take the matter back to their Networks for further discussion.

5. Report and Support Overview presentation (AC)

- a. Link to slides: [Report + Support Overview.pptx](#)
- b. Link to Feedback form: <https://reportandsupport.st-andrews.ac.uk/support/queries-and-feedback>

AC presented on behalf of Rebecca Swarbrick (RS, Report + Support and Mediation), using the slides as linked above. The presentation outlines what R+S is, and the improvements they are seeking to make.

Reports have decreased since 2023/24, with the most common topic being harassment (up from previous reporting period). The most common reason for anonymous disclosure was that they wanted Uni to have the information.

RS wanted to express that R+S is an entry point to existing processes (Conduct etc). It doesn't create an official report on its own, but it starts the support process and gives the student options (formal reporting, police, or speaking to other systems). Students can of course access support through other means. Anonymous and named reporting are available.

RS is seeking student feedback on R+S, which AC can take back, or members are welcome to use the feedback link (which is within the R+S site, and separate from the disclosure element).

AC said that every disclosure results in action of some sort.

ZB asked to clarify if R+S is just for students reporting other students' poor behaviour. JN clarified it's for disclosures by or about staff, students, and community members. ZB responded they'd have members of the public getting in touch with them to report something, and from now on they will give them the R+S link.

Orla flagged that R+S can be used if you've witnessed something happening to someone else. JN reaffirmed that named or anonymous disclosures are accepted.

RC reminded the group that R+S is not an emergency reporting line, so please do contact the appropriate service. It is however regularly monitored. Some action is always taken, and it does help inform challenging areas where policy or other interventions may be taken.

BR flagged STAMSA's wellbeing report lately, with key points about accessibility and action on reporting, so that might be a good resource to use. AC will send this report on to RS.

6. Microaggressions Form Feedback (AC)

- a. Link: [Microaggressions feedback form DRAFT questions.docx](#)

AC requested members add comments at the link. It ties into R+S and will be given to them to help understand/demonstrate that microaggressions happen so frequently that it is difficult to report each individual one. It will inform other University groups/staff relevant to this area. All feedback is anonymous. Will discuss internally and with University on how we can take steps forward.

AC spoke through each of the questions.

Orla suggested we define what is meant by microaggression in the form as many may not know what one is. BS suggested providing examples.

7. AOB

RC noted some overlap with other areas of work. The University will soon convene a May Dip planning group, and asked members to please feed into this space via the appropriate student rep. RC also mentioned spare spoon and community council, and suggested connecting with Lesley Caldwell.

Orla asked if DSN could get involved in May Dip, making it accessible. Beach wheelchairs have been explored previously. RC was receptive to this.

ZB noted they had worked with head of the Hamish Foundation, which was involved with beach wheelchairs before, and wondered if they could connect up on this.

Orla flagged previous work with environment groups on this area, and may look to connect up.

RC has taken as an action to follow up with students and community groups on May Dip.

Meeting adjourned: 18:56