

Action Group – Access to Student Healthcare
Meeting Date: 18.01.24**Present**

Dean Turner, Welfare and Community Officer **(DT) (Allocated Officer)**

Scott Dawson, Student Voice and Representation Manager **(SD) (Note Taker)**

Trinity Barson, LGBTQ+ Officer & Welfare and Liberation Committee Member **(TB)**

Fern Warwick, Welfare and Liberation Committee Member **(FW)**

Idea for Discussion:**Current Policy**

The Guild believes that all students, at the University of Birmingham and beyond, have the right to free, accessible and local health services. This healthcare should be provided in a way that is fully accessible to any student, regardless of background.

Minutes from meeting 18.01.24

SD: Provided context in that it was understood this policy was looking to ensure all students can access local surgeries, GP's and specialist support units as required during their time at Birmingham.

DT: Noted that the policy is useful for students but is lacking detail and would be good to elaborate on.

A request was made to revise the policy to include students who would be disproportionality impacted in accessing healthcare. Such as International Students, Women, LGBTQ+, BAME and Disabled Students.

TB: Noted there is a lack of clear call to action for the Guild within the current version of the policy. And that should be included, ensuring the Guild does act to lobby for appropriate change.

DT: Considered what these routes to lobby for change would be. Suggested local council, university and local surgeries. Including waiting times being the main and significant issue.

DT: Suggested about linking general healthcare access to migrants. Considering the work of groups such as Medsoc society. It would be good to ensure the work undertaken ensures improvements are made for all individuals, not just students.

TB: Noted it would be good as well to clarify what impacts International Students would face, what is unique about their experience? TB also highlighted we should ensure information provided by Guild services, such as Guild Advice remains accurate and informative.

The group discussed next steps:

DT: Suggested this item goes to ASV – whilst this is something in the interest and benefit of all students, it may not innately obvious that the Guild has a policy on it.

TB: Agreed, due to amendments being made to the previous policy as well, this should have student opinion and backing through the All Student Vote.

FW: Agreed with the above.

Amended Policy:

The Guild believes that all students at the University of Birmingham and beyond have the right to free and accessible local health services. This is particularly important for International Students, Women, LGBTQ+ students, BAME and Disabled Students who would face greater barriers such as cost, wait times and discrimination within healthcare.

Healthcare should be provided in a way that is fully accessible to all, regardless of background or individual student status.

The Guild commits to lobbying the University, Council and working with local services to reduce inequalities and ensure advice provided to students on these services (such as through guild advice) is accurate and informative.

Agreed Actions:

- There was consensus that the amended policy should be taken forward to the All Student Vote, with approval from DT as Chair.

Any questions regarding approval, next steps or requests for further information can be submitted to: studentvoice@guild.bham.ac.uk