Statement of Principles and Practice regarding Young People

Residing at Dr Winterbottom Halls of Residence

2026 - 2027

1. Definitions
   1.1. "Young People/ Person" refers to any resident at the Halls of Residence who is not yet 18 years old

2. Scope and Aim

   2.1. This document sets out the principles and practice of accommodating students under the age of 18 at Dr Winterbottom Halls of Residence.

   2.2. These principles aim to provide a framework of good practice for all staff when dealing with Young People at the Halls of Residence.

   2.3. These Principles apply over and above any other health, safety, Safeguarding and welfare arrangements in place at South Tyneside College and are in particular aimed at those residents attending South Shields Marine School, and living in or visiting the Halls of Residence.

3. Status
   3.1. This document in its current form remains applicable at all times.

4. Principles and Practice

   Accommodation

   4.1. Any Young Person who attends South Shields Marine School, who is not yet 18 years old, and who is not living at their home address, must reside at the Halls of Residence until they are 18.

   4.2. All residents not yet 18 years old are housed on site at the Halls – except in cases of extreme emergency where the Halls or a considerable portion of the Halls may become unserviceable for some unforeseen reason.

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4.3. To ensure we are satisfied that u18 residents can cater for themselves, we provide cooking demonstrations and a healthy eating guide within the first 4 weeks of arrival. U18 residents also have the option to go on a catered plan.

4.4. In order to meet our legal and OFSTED requirements, those residents under the age of 18, where possible, are accommodated together on their own floors in a designated young person's block, behind additional privacy locks and away from the older residents. Female residents in our standard accommodation, where possible, are also accommodated together to ensure privacy when using shared facilities. We will consider under exceptional circumstances, accommodating residents under the age of 18 in our en-suite self-catered block. The circumstances considered examples of but not limited too

- Exceptional dietary requirements.
- Course timetable conflicts with access to catering facilities.
- A lone young person residing in the designated u18 block.
- A lone female residing on a floor by themselves.
- Welfare concerns.

4.5. However, where any learner is not comfortable with their room for whatever reason – and in the absence of a sound reason not to proceed - we will as far as is practicable endeavour to move that learner to a room of their choice.

Health, Safety, Safeguarding and Welfare

4.6. We will act in 'loco parentis' for any Young Person residing at the Halls.

4.7. We will provide access to a trained member of staff 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

4.8. We will aspire to provide a secure and relaxed environment in which to live, study and thrive.

4.9. We accept that residents are here to learn, and that mistakes will be made. However, we will aspire to maintain a robust, flexible, and clear disciplinary code. As a result of any breach, we will judiciously follow the disciplinary procedure as laid out in the current Halls Handbook.

4.10. We will monitor the behaviour and welfare of all Young People, and provide guidance and support as required.

2026 - 2027

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4.11. Where we deem it necessary, we will communicate, in confidence, with parents or guardians on a range of issues including, health, welfare and safeguarding issues. We will not communicate on every single issue, event or occurrence, as this may not be the desirable for the development of the Young Person concerned.

4.12. Where necessary, we will refer Young People to a local GP or accident and emergency department if treatment or diagnosis is required, or as a result of any illness or symptoms lasting 48 hrs or more. A Young Person may request to be referred to any health professional at any time during their stay, without the need to disclose the issue concerned.

4.13. We will oversee or monitor (as required) any prescription medication if appropriate and ensure that any medical appointments (if notified) are kept.

4.14. We will always strive to act in accordance with Halls guidance with regard to the administration and recording of non-prescription medicines e.g. cough and cold remedies, Paracetamol/Lemsip etc.

4.15. We will strive to encourage and educate Young People to make responsible and healthy decisions, follow hobbies and develop wider interests and to provide information, guidance and resources to allow them to participate in appropriate lifestyles.

4.16. We will keep appropriate, up to date and secure records regarding each Young Person at the Halls.

4.17. We will endeavour to monitor the health, welfare, wellbeing and safety of Young People by:

4.17.1. the implementation and management of a fair and reasonable Curfew system;

4.17.2. the restriction of their access to, and use of, alcoholic drink;

4.17.3. the monitoring of their afterhours entertainment to ensure that they are not connected with any games of chance, gambling, hazing or initiation games;

4.17.4. providing Young People with information and contact information with regards to issues of potential concern –for example bullying, harassment, mental health issues, healthy eating and curriculum support.

4.17.5. Ensuring that religious, cultural and special dietary needs are taken into account as far as is practicable.

2026 - 2027

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4.17.6. Ensuring that Young People are able to participate in decisions which impact on their living at the Halls. This is done via formal and informal engagement events with both the Young Person and their parent.

2026 - 2027