

# AREA 4 COMMITTEE

## Students in Nottingham – current situation and actions

WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER



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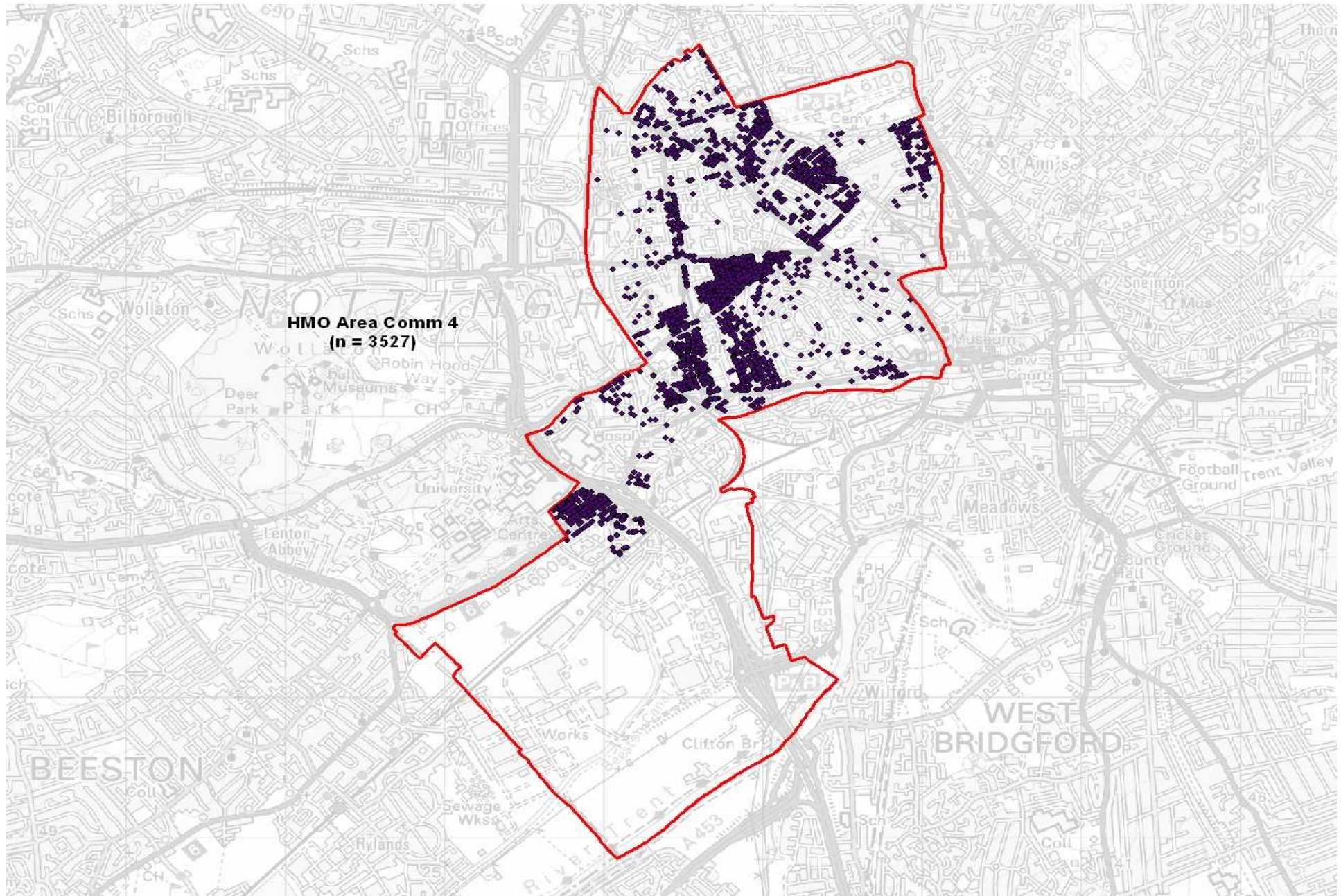
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# Background:

Nottingham's student population, and the accompanying student properties (houses in multiple occupancy – HMOs), has increased considerably over the past 10 years. This increase has brought with it a variety of problems and additional work for the local authority.

Nottingham City Council, together with a number of partners, is constantly developing new ideas and actions to support residents to ensure that the lives of both groups of citizens run as smoothly and as cohesively as possible.





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# Areas of work

1. Letting Boards
2. Community Protection
3. Article 4 Direction
4. Parking Permits for students
5. Skip Project
6. HMO Licensing
7. Waste Management & Recycling
8. Crime Prevention
9. Weeks of Action
10. Marketing & Communications
11. Student Co-ordination

# New Student Strategy Document

Nottingham City Council is currently working on a student strategy with an action plan. However, the first draft is not yet complete, but a draft document should be available in the autumn for stakeholders to comment on. The final strategy and action plan should be in place by spring 2013.

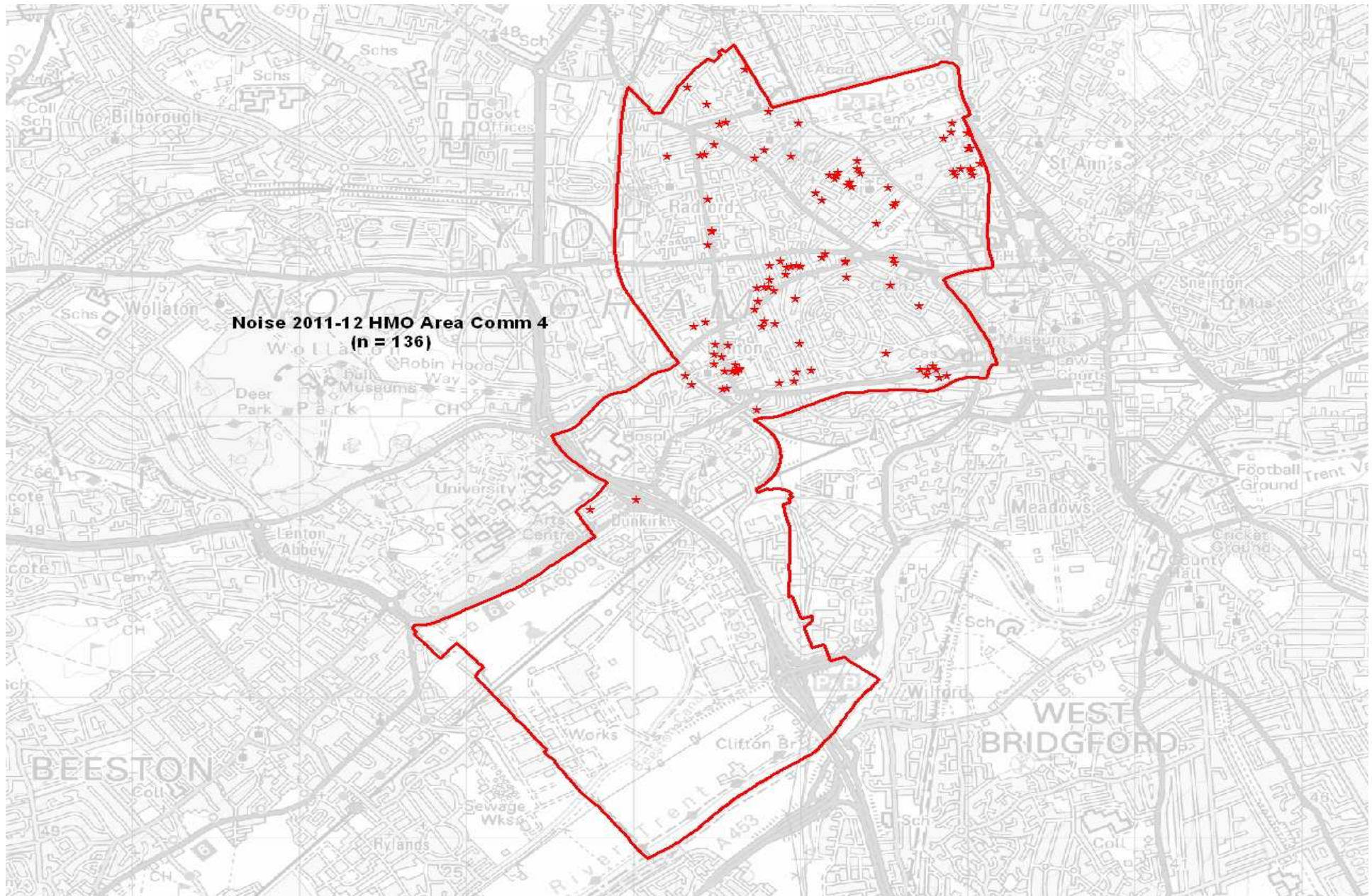


# Housing Nottingham Plan

The Nottingham Housing Plan (Housing Strategy) has been available for consultation since the middle of August 2012. Of particular relevance to issues within Area 4 is the content regarding Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs).

# Community Protection

Community Protection plays a major if not the leading role in working with Nottingham's students and their neighbouring permanent residents. From noise pollution to licensing of HMOs as well as being frequently the individual contact between NCC and everybody living in those areas. An integral part of the role played by Community Protection is that of the Community Protection Officers, who play an important part with and as part of the local community.



**Noise 2011-12 HMO Area Comm 4  
(n = 136)**



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# Letting Boards

After a lengthy period of monitoring and consultation plus the initial introduction of a voluntary code, Central Government has at last given our local authority the legislation to deal with the problems caused by the mass of Letting Boards often seen in areas with high numbers of student HMOs. In preparation for the introduction of this scheme, planning have produced a Design Guidance for letting boards in the areas.

Enforcement will be carried out in conjunction with Community Protection and Neighbourhood Management.



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# Article 4 Direction

The introduction of an article 4 direction in March 2012 changed the planning rules for HMOs throughout the City, including those occupied by students, making it necessary for landlords to obtain planning permission before starting to let out an existing family dwelling to between 3 & 6 unrelated occupiers. Prior to this, permission had only been needed for HMOs with 7 or more occupiers. Established planning policies, particularly those concerning Building Balanced Communities, are at present being used to assess application. In due course, these will be replaced by updated policies contained in a replacement Local Plan that is currently under preparation.

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# Parking Permits for Students

After consultation in 2010 it was decided to introduce charges for student parking permits within residential parking schemes. Approximately 1000 permits were applied for in the last academic year which indicated a significant drop in permits issued. Either some students are no longer bringing their cars or they are seeking alternative parking arrangements.

# Skip Project

This was introduced in 2011 to minimise the impact on the visual amenity and the high risk to health & safety caused by the high number of builders' skips placed on the highway in the Lenton Triangle and the Drives in summer months to facilitate refurbishment work. The project restricts the size of skips that can be used and restricts the length of time that a skip can be left on the highway. Preference is given to lockable lidded skips, which may be licensed for 14 days as opposed to unlidded skips, which are unsightly and prone to overflow, which can be licensed for one day only.

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# Accreditation

There is on-going work to develop the **Nottingham Standard**, a unified approach to the accreditation of privately rented houses within the city. This will incorporate Unipol and EMLAS (East Midlands Landlord Accreditation Scheme) accredited properties and will work across the whole of the PRS, not just the student sector. Currently there are over 2000 Unipol accredited bed-spaces in the city and the introduction of Unipol to Nottingham has been one of the joint successes of partnership working involving the city, universities, residents and student unions.

# HMO Licensing

Additionally the Environmental Health Team continues to work with Housing Strategy on proposals for an Additional Licensing scheme. It is expected that a consultation exercise will be started in the autumn when students return.



# Waste Management & Recycling

Although scenes like the previous picture still happen throughout the area, there is no doubt that our colleagues from Waste Management and the Neighbourhood Operations teams have become more successful at clearing away the mess quicker. Many successes and improvements to the local environment have been made and I'd like to list some of them.





# Waste Management cont.

- Additional collections of domestic & recycling bins in areas of high student population.
- Additional deep cleansing of streets and yards in all affected areas.
- Additional resources at specific times of the year to deal with the excess short-term waste.
- Involvement in Days & Weeks of Action.
- Partnership working with BHF & Lenton Partnership Forum on recycling actions.





# Waste Management Challenges

- Additional work to reduce builders bags.
- Enlarge if possible the Skip Project.
- If possible, more Saturday waste collections at the end of term.
- Evaluate success of BHF scheme to provide more clothing & book banks.
- Increase enforcement where education & persuasion do not work.



# Crime Prevention

The Student Fortnight of Action is being co-ordinated by the Central locality team this year and will focus on the wards of Radford & Park, Arboretum, Dunkirk & Lenton and Wollaton East & Lenton Abbey. The CDP will input community safety support into these weeks of action, specifically around problem-solving, community safety messages and promotion of SmartWater as a crime prevention tool. The Easily Done website is a dedicated crime prevention resource for students and this year we will be building up the social networking aspect of the site through a Twitter feed.

# Weeks of Action

This year there will be another Fortnight of Action in areas considered to have problems relating to burglaries as well as waste management. The fortnight will run from 22<sup>nd</sup> September until 5<sup>th</sup> October.



# Marketing & Communications

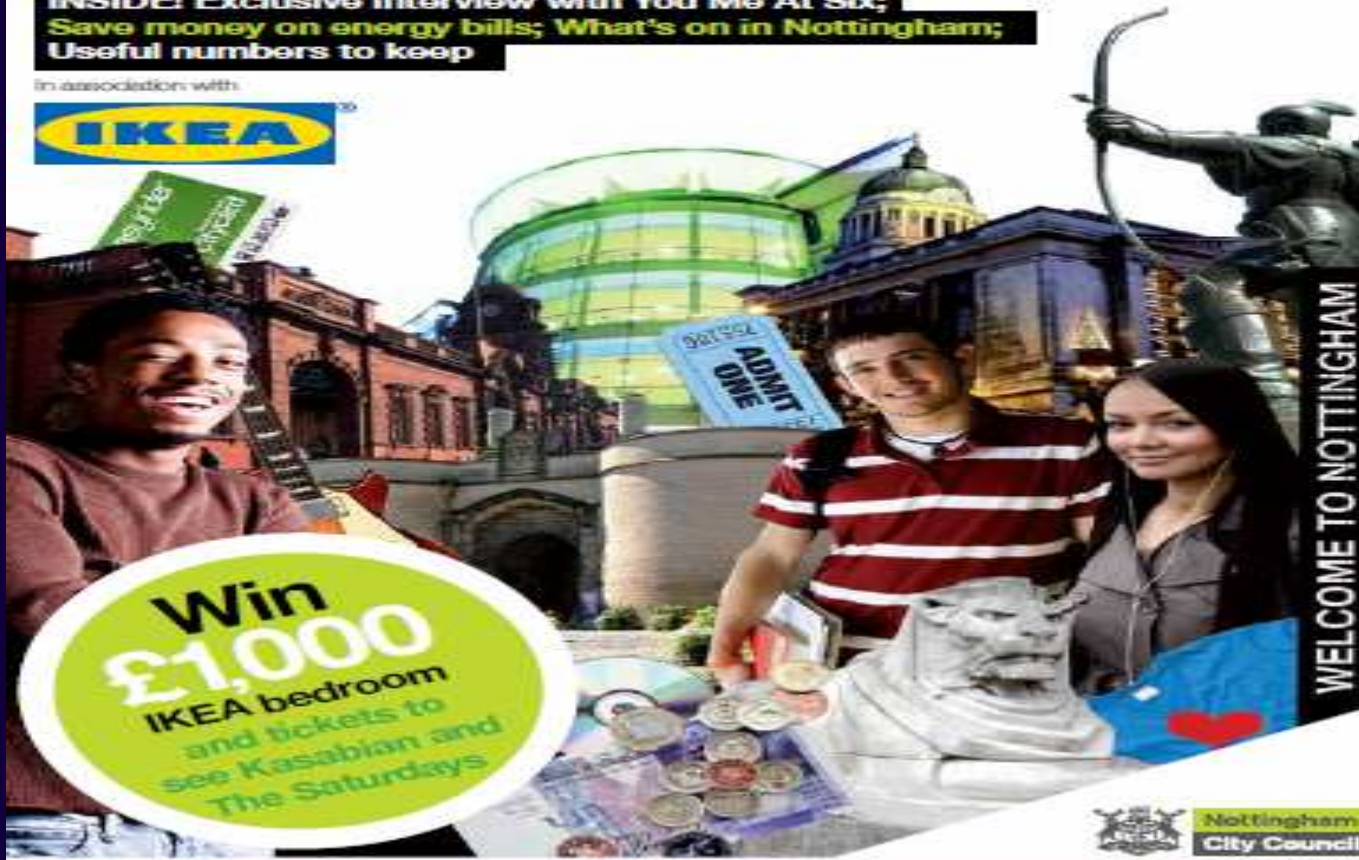
M&C have taken on the responsibility for the Student Survival Guide as well as attendance at both Freshers' events.

This year's guide will be distributed to all of the 1<sup>st</sup> year students at both universities. As well as relevant information, there are a number of reminders about the need for good behaviour and social responsibility

# Student Survival Guide 2011/12

**INSIDE!** Exclusive interview with You Me At Six;  
Save money on energy bills; What's on in Nottingham;  
Useful numbers to keep

In association with



**Win  
£1,000**  
IKEA bedroom  
and tickets to  
see Kasabian and  
The Saturdays

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# Student Co-ordination

Co-ordinating and linking the various actions and work with the stakeholders such as the NAG, student unions, universities etc. remains an important part of the work carried out within Community Protection. Regular Student Co-ordination & Delivery group meetings allow the current issues to be discussed and possible solutions suggested.