

Survey to assess problems in medical provision

GEORGE LOWTHER

Laura Connor
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

FOLLOWING CONCERNS that the University health provision is failing students, YUSU are planning to distribute questionnaires designed to assess student satisfaction with the healthcare centre,

The questionnaire will ask for details about whether students choose to use the healthcare centre, and whether they have encountered any negative experiences there. Students will also be asked to rank how far they are satisfied that the health centre has met their mental & physical needs on a scale of one

being unfamiliar with a nurse-led service."

Students this term have expressed further dissatisfaction with the readiness and thoroughness of appointments. One first-year English Literature student expressed alarm at a succession of three appointments, telling *Nouse* that the first nurse she saw "seemed to want to get me out of the room as quickly as possible" and was "not willing to listen to any further concerns I had about my medication." The second time she went to the healthcare centre she'd waited two weeks for an appointment, and never managed to see the doctor because he was running over 45 minutes late.

"When I finally got to see him, he wasn't willing to give me a blood test and told me to rebook. The ladies at the reception told me it would be another two weeks before I could get another appointment, and I was better travelling all the way to Asda's drop-in centre at Monks Cross," she continued. Another first-year student similarly expressed dissatisfaction, finding one nurse "abrupt" and "patronising."

Last term, *Nouse* reported that there were concerns over a perceived lack of privacy present during the appointment-making process at the on-campus centre. Another major concern was raised over the lack of a GUM clinic on campus. Chlamydia tests are available free of charge from Nightline, the healthcare centre and the Student Union, but the health centre does not offer screenings for other sexually transmitted infections. Patients also wishing to make contraception appoint-



The University is keen to improve health centre services

ments are directed to family planning clinics whenever possible. The nearest facilities are in Monkgate Health Centre in the city centre.

Leyland remains optimistic that the administrators at the healthcare centre are looking forward to the feedback of the questionnaire, and that they are "keen to improve their services."

University officials have again claimed that the issue is out of their control. Following last term's story, a statement from Keith Lilley, Director of

Facilities Management, said: "The University does not manage the Health Centre provision. This is the local PCT (Primary Care Trust). GUM services are part of the York DGH (District General Hospital) provision and these services are commissioned by the PCT for our area."

He also added that "Unfortunately the University cannot change this provision independently of the commissioner or indeed the provider." Lilley believes that concerns for the appointments procedure

can be raised directly with the practice.

Leyland agrees that the University "have their own constraints due to the nature of the local commissioning practices, but hopefully we can help them if there is enough feedback to allow them to insist, if not demand, extra provisions."

Any students who would like to raise this issue or discuss more privately can email Leyland on acwelf@yusu.org, or visit the YUSU offices.

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to ten.

YUSU Academic and Welfare Officer Charlie Leyland emphasised that there should be healthcare improvements on campus in her election campaign last year. She added in her mandate that she would strive to produce an assessment of the healthcare centre as Welfare Officer.

Leyland said: "I've openly said that I would like to work towards having a GUM Clinic on campus and wanted to uncover any other areas that people feel could be improved in the process. I know that some of these have included the lack of confidentiality in the reception/waiting area, feelings of 'studentification', and people

Mutya Buena to perform at Vanbrugh event

Sian Turner
DEPUTY EDITOR

FORMER 'SUGARBABES' star Mutya Buena is set to perform at an upcoming event in Vanbrugh held in coordination with the International Student Association (ISA)

The event, taking place on Saturday of week 7 is to follow the ISA Fiesta, an annual event held in Vanbrugh dining hall to showcase the food and culture from the home countries of international students at York.

It is hoped that the presence of a known celebrity will raise the profile of the event and encourage ticket sales after the last event in Vanbrugh, 'Volume presents Tribal,' had to close early due to an unexpectedly poor attendance.

Buena is one in a num-

ber of celebrities to perform at Vanbrugh events in recent months. Most recently, pop star Lolly headed the Volume event 'Planet Pop' during Freshers week.

The timing of the event on a Saturday places it in direct competition with the CO2 club nights at the Courtyard in Langwith. College JCRCs have been in contention with the weekly club nights since they were first proposed last year, fearing that they would jeopardise college events usually held on the same night. Vanbrugh Chair, Dani Fill, expressed concern back in January that "it (the Courtyard) is going to be detrimental to Vanbrugh events."

However, Vanbrugh Ents Rep, Steph Northcott, expressed belief that the event can be a success despite the clash: "We hope that it



Former Sugababes star Buena will sing at Vanbrugh

won't cause any problems," she said. "We've looked at the events that have been held by Derwent, and they've all done well despite usually being on a Saturday. We're hoping that because Mutya Buena is big, she'll attract

people who will maybe go to the Courtyard first and then to Vanbrugh, or maybe just come straight to Vanbrugh instead."

Tickets for the event will be on sale this week in Vanbrugh.

Students to face campus rent divide on Hes East

Tom Hobohm
NEWS REPORTER

YUSU has confirmed that accommodation prices on the Heslington East extension will be more complicated than currently due to an anomaly in the plans.

YUSU Academic and Welfare Officer Charlie Leyland stated: "I believe that the ensuite rooms have worked out cheaper to build than larger non-ensuite rooms, which throws our two tiered system of ensuite and standard."

If the University used the usual pricing scheme at Heslington East, some students would find themselves paying more for rooms with fewer facilities.

YUSU President Tom Scott explained the new accommodation: "There are

larger rooms that are part of a 'house' with a shared shower, there are studio flats for couples and other interesting variations."

The University must now consider how to price the new rooms. There have been concerns since January 2008 that the more expensive Hes East accommodation could create a campus divide, leading to the creation of 'ghetto' on Heslington West, with poorer quality rooms and lower rents. Former YUSU President Anne Marie Canning spoke last year of concerns over creating a situation of "the rich and the poor."

Scott has agreed with his predecessor, saying that: "since it's all brand new, we can safely assume that everything on the new campus will fall into the higher rent bands."