

**WSU Policy Number:** To be filled in by the SU

## Policy Proposal: Disabled Students' Access to Student Housing

<b>Proposing Student's Name:</b>	<b>Archie Eaton</b>
<b>Student Number:</b>	<b>20000727</b>
<b>Seconding Student's Name</b>	<b>Anwen Jeffreys and Will Bannister</b>
<b>Student Number:</b>	<b>20006078 and 20001258</b>
<p><b>Facts: What is the issue you're trying to address? What do we already know about this issue?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently in Worcester, there is a lack of Wheelchair access into a variety of buildings and Student houses are no exception. More widely There are few student houses that are Disability Friendly. Disability friendly means houses are inaccessible to multiple types of disability</li> <li>• At the moment wheelchair using students have 2 choices when they go to a friends house.</li> <li>• A) try to lift their wheelchair into the house after them which particularly for electric wheelchair users, is not really very viable</li> <li>• B) Leave their wheelchair out on the street where it is vulnerable to not only the elements, but also to theft</li> <li>• Speaking to landlords at the housing fair, the majority of landlords said that they would be willing to make the necessary adjustments but this was only when prompted about that point.</li> <li>• Speaking to landlords, The main issues with this is the financial viability of this effort and also the geography of the property</li> <li>• Ideally, all properties would get a permanent ramp installed which would help many people in the future as well as it being fairly low maintenance.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Impacts: How does this issue affect students, and in what way? Is it negative?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of wheelchair accessibility or disability friendly houses leads students to not wanting to go and visit friends in houses as it runs a risk of something serious happening which could be completely life changing.</li> </ul>	

- When looking for student houses for 2<sup>nd</sup> year and beyond, students find it difficult to find a place that is suitably accommodated to their needs (i.e. wheelchair access, visual alarm systems etc.) trying to find accommodation like this is a time consuming process and it can impact on areas such as mental wellbeing and grades

**Reacts: What would you like the Students' Union to do to address the issue? How do we need to take it forward?**

- The SU should explore options to provide portable ramps for students to borrow
- The SU should work with all student landlords to improve accessibility to their properties and look at how we can highlight those houses that are more accessible.
- The SU to work with University Accommodation Team and the Disabled Students' Network to explore how/if the Studentpad website can be used to highlight where landlords can highlight any adaptations that they have already made. By making this information more transparent to students, this would make their process a lot smoother and a lot less time consuming
- The SU to work with the University Accommodation Team and the Disabled Students' Network to identify any changes that could improve disabled access to University Managed Accommodation.