

## **Manifesto for Chris Howard**

### **Why should you vote for me to become Welfare Officer and what would I bring to the role?**

My name is Chris Howard and I am a first year student studying History. I decided to run for the Welfare position, as I feel I would be suitable for the role. So far this year I have not been very involved with the Union as I am not in any sports teams or societies and I see this opportunity as a great chance to change that. I like to attend many of the events at the Union and this furthers my interest to support it. As a first year I was not sure about what being an Executive Member involved. As the elections drew to a close I gained more of an understanding though and was happy to see that I still had a chance to run for the position.

During the past couple of years I have gained skills that I feel I can contribute to the role of Welfare. In my gap year, I went travelling to America on my own and had to learn to manage not only my time and money but also myself. Organising the trip and budgeting for it really tested me at the time but it was invaluable for when I returned to the States again a few months later. I am aware that as Welfare Officer it will involve organising various events where I would have to budget for them and I feel the skills I learned while travelling can be applied there. Also in my gap year I did some charity work for Face2Face, going out on the streets and campaigning for numerous charities and signing up participants. This gave me a lot of confidence and the ability to approach people and raise awareness on issues they might otherwise never be concerned with. This was one of my first experiences working for the welfare of others and I found it an amazing and enjoyable experience and I am very enthusiastic to get involved with it again.

In my spare time I work as a barman which has taught me good people skills and the confidence to work in a potentially stressful role. Also I used to play bass and front for different bands and this involved constant organisation of the band for practise and shows etc which required strong leadership skills. In America I also helped to organise a tour for a band and so I am aware of the effort and work that goes into setting up and running events and how to budget and organise for them. I think that these skills would help me as Welfare officer and that I would really enjoy the experience as I see it as a once in a lifetime opportunity I would like to make the most of.

### **What would my aims be if I was to be elected as Welfare Officer?**

- The current Welfare Officer has done a good job of maintaining already established programs such as the Welfare Week, S.H.A.G. week etc and I wish to continue this by raising more awareness and further promotion of these events.
- Establish working links with other Executive Members such as the Communications Officer to get more students involved in welfare issues, and maintain the link with the Entertainments Officer where welfare events are concerned.
- Explore other possible methods of raising awareness for welfare, such as online sites that are aimed at students that provide simple methods for supporting charity for example, SocialVibe, or an online forum for students to use.
- To work with the student body to see which aspects of welfare they would like to see improved or focused on, and what issues students would like to see welfare being involved in.