



# Sheffield Hallam University Community

## Snug not smug

### About the project

#### Summary

'Snug' is a scheme of registering, inspecting, improving and advertising student homes in Sheffield which tightens up the control and regulation of private sector student housing to ensure that Sheffield Hallam offers better, safer, greener accommodation for all our students.

#### Project partners

- Sheffield City Council
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Hallam Union (Students' Union)

### The results

#### The problem

Sheffield has over 60,000 students living in the city at any one time. The majority of student landlords are professional and responsible, willing to cooperate fully with us, as well as being considerate towards the environment, the community and student safety and wellbeing. We think this deserves some recognition so that students choosing a new home can distinguish between landlords who comply with their responsibilities – and those who possibly do not.

#### The approach

Snug is a mandatory quality standard all landlords must achieve to be able to advertise their accommodation to students. Student homes in the private sector are registered and inspected to ensure that Sheffield Hallam offers better, safer, greener accommodation for all our students and improving the community impact that they have in the city.

#### Our goals

Snug is an ongoing project and we will continue to promote the scheme and its benefits to both landlords and students. Moving forward we hope that the number of landlords joining the scheme will increase, which in turn will result in an improvement in the standard of all private sector housing in Sheffield so that all students can expect their home to meet these high standards.

# Sheffield Hallam University

#### Profile

- Higher Education
- 31,000 students (full and part time)
- 4,400 staff
- Urban and green campuses with satellite sports facilities



### Obstacles and solutions

How to check all the properties	To avoid the risk of landlords 'self-certifying' that they meet the standards and ensure quality accommodation is being provided. The inspections are undertaken by legally qualified staff who also offer advice and information to the landlords about every aspect of tenancy and property management.
Communicating the benefits of Snug to students	The scheme is promoted at key times of the year targeting students who are making their accommodation choices.
Ensure the scheme meets the needs of the University	The university's recently published strategy 'transforming lives' highlights its priority to 'lead locally and engage globally' as one of four pillars key to the forward plan of the institution. In line with this we will work with others to enhance economic growth and quality of life in the region. The Snug scheme is evidence of how we can meet this priority for Sheffield Hallam - clearly engaging external partners to improve the quality of life of our students.
Student representation and buy in	The Students' Union (SU) has direct involvement in the Snug scheme through representation on the Snug operational and monitoring groups and assisting in establishing the criteria and developing management standards prior to the scheme's launch representing the needs of the student body.

### Performance and results

- 890 properties are accredited to Snug, run by 113 private rented sector landlords equating to 11,500 approved bed spaces for students (this typically rises to 14,000 beds between Nov-Mar).
- 29 halls of residence in Sheffield, run by 15 partners and totalling 5000 rooms, are Snug accredited.
- Since 2014 the number of users on the SHU Studentpad property database has increased by 505% from 20,517 to 103,649 in 2016/17.

### CO2 savings

Please record the <b>annual</b> carbon savings* you have/will achieve with your initiative**.	
CO <sub>2</sub> t savings 2016/2017:	1477 tCO <sub>2</sub> e Estimated
CO <sub>2</sub> t savings 2017/2018:	1477 tCO <sub>2</sub> e Estimated (minimum, assuming no additional properties accredited - expected to rise with housing fares etc.)
CO <sub>2</sub> t savings over the life cycle of the project:	2954 tCO <sub>2</sub> e over two years (1477 tCO <sub>2</sub> e per year assuming consistent property numbers)



Green Gown  
Awards 2017



Dissemination  
supported by:

  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
FUNDING COUNCIL  
FOR ENGLAND



# Finalist's case study



## The future

### Lessons learned

Our vision is to create a scheme which benefits ALL young people studying and living in Sheffield in housing which, through its management and continual improvement will ultimately have a long lasting effect on all housing stock, empowering tenants who are educated to make informed decisions to find the best housing available, creating communities who are engaging with our students and to have a lasting impact with regards to the environmental benefits of the scheme in the City.

### Top 3 learnings from implementing your project

- 1) Students and landlords alike need to see the positive impacts and benefits of the scheme to assure its success.
- 2) There must be a close multi partner, cross city approach.
- 3) The scheme must support the wider business needs of the university and landlords whilst considering the wellbeing of our students

### Sharing your project

From 2013-2017 we have had continual contact with the University of Sheffield (UoS) to ensure they were aware of scheme developments and had some input. The vision was to develop a scheme that would also meet their needs. Recently the UoS agreed that they would adopt the scheme as part of their private rented sector (PRS) registration renewal process - whilst this is not an immediate mandatory requirement, by 2018 their PRS properties should be Snug registered.

### What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

Successfully meeting current global challenges can only be achieved through sustainable solutions. To be a Green Gown Finalist reflects the significant commitment we have made to practicing what we teach in terms of finding and implementing those solutions at Hallam, and benefitting the entire Sheffield Hallam community.

### Further information

Sheffield Hallam University Private Sector Housing:

<https://www.shu.ac.uk/study-here/accommodation/find-somewhere-to-live/private-sector>

Sheffield City Council Approved Student Housing:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/housing/approved-student-housing-snug>

Snug Property and Management Standards:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/dam/sheffield/docs/housing/landlords/Attach151418-Snug%20property%20and%20management%20standards.pdf>

Sheffield City Council Student Housing Strategy 2014-2019

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/dam/sheffield/docs/housing/housing-strategy/Student%20Accommodation%20Strategy%202014-2019.pdf>