The ANUK/Unipol National Codes of Standards for Larger Student Developments

Educational Establishments Code and the Star Rating System

CODE OF STANDARDS FOR LARGER DEVELOPMENTS

History

- Code for private providers launched at end of 2004
- In 2005, following legislative developments and suggestions from ASRA, a separate Code for educational establishments was produced
- In 2006 both Codes were awarded “approved” status by the Government
- In 2008 the Code for educational establishments was reviewed

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Governance

- Owned by a consortium – Accreditation Network UK (ANUK), NUS and Unipol
- A Committee of Management (CoM) oversees the development of the Code
- CoM consists of reps from the consortium, member organisations, National Government departments and professional bodies – currently a total of 31 people
- The National Code Administrator is based at Unipol

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Aims and Objectives

- To agree a set of undertakings between providers of large developments and their tenants about how they wish to do business with one another
- To set some benchmark standards for the way in which larger developments are managed and controlled
- Reassure potential tenants and parents that providers are meeting recognised standards

Membership - HE

- HEE's can choose to join one of the approved Codes of Practice – UUK or ANUK/Unipol
- Eight HEEs are currently signed up – Leeds Met, Royal Veterinary College, University of Bradford, University of Hertfordshire, University of Leeds, University of Chichester, Nottingham Trent, University of Greenwich; St Edmunds College, Cambridge

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Membership FE

- Further Education establishments can only join the ANUK/Unipol Code for educational establishments or choose to be licensed
- Ten FEEs are currently signed up, Blackpool and Fylde College, Castle College, Chichester College, David Game College, Foundation for International Education, Hillcroft College, Loughborough College, Rodbaston College, SCIO, Stanfords College
- A total of 1,109 bed spaces

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Self Assessment & Verification

- All new applicants for membership complete a self-assessment questionnaire to indicate level of compliance with Code
- SAQ analysed and provisional membership awarded if no problems detected
- Verification Visits to at least one development owned/managed before full membership awarded

Main Sections of the Code

- Equal Opportunities
- Marketing Prior to Letting
- During the Tenancy
- Tenant Satisfaction
- Health and Safety
- At the End of the Tenancy
- Disputes
- Complaints

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Existing ‘Green’ Code Requirements

- Where the LA operates a recycling scheme, the waste disposal plan conforms to relevant standards for recycling
- Compliance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regs 2007 – i.e. display of EPCs

Star Rating

- Additional voluntary requirements separate from ‘core’ standards of the Code
- Four possible themes to these standard, including sustainability
- Compliance could be verified by a partner organisation who helped frame the standards
- Could apply to UUK Code as well as ANUK/Unipol one

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Student Preferences?

- The University of Nottingham Survey on student housing preferences – commissioned by Unipol
- Conducted in April/May 2008
- 5,310 responses from students of both universities in Nottingham

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Main Survey Findings

- 1st year students prefer utility bills to be included within the rent
- 45% of residents of large developments (inc on-campus) were dissatisfied with existing recycling facilities
- Concerns were expressed about high prices for heating and the environmental impact of poorly insulated and maintained properties

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Star Rating - Sustainability

- Possible partners include The Carbon Trust and Sound Impact
- Energy efficiency and recycling might be one aspect, as might be materials used in construction of buildings
- Look to holt trend of ‘all inclusive’ rent/energy deals?
- Any other ideas?

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National Code Website

- www.anuk.org.uk/LargeCode
- Lists all members signed-up to both Codes
- lists all developments covered by both Codes, by town/city
- Includes details of how to join and will include on-line registration details

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