

Iron Sharpens Iron

How Strong Students' Unions Strengthen
University Partnerships

Why Student Voice Matters

Do we treat student voice as essential or optional?

Strong student voice needs time, clarity, relationships, and investment.





What Does a Strong SU Look Like?

- Support
- Challenge
- Visibility
- Community
- Change

Hallam SU in Numbers

1,505 Course Reps
supported

980 advice enquiries

599 ongoing advice cases

£322,722 secured for
students





What this looks like at Hallam SU

Representation

1,505 Course Reps supported, driving improvements in assessment, feedback, placements, community, and communication.

Campaigns

The Sheffield Students' Assembly relaunched, giving students a direct voice on transport, nighttime safety, and international student rights.

Advice

From major wins like a £97,000 group complaint and £15,000 repeat-year funding, to everyday support that keeps students on course.

The Collaborative Student Challenge

Distance

Complexity

Fragmented support

Unclear boundaries





Listening. Learning. Improving.

What exists already?
Where are the gaps?
How do we improve
visibility?

Core Principles of a Strong SU

Visibility

Accessibility

Feedback loops

Clarity

Partnership





The Lead Rep Role

What it is

- Connection
- Signposting
- Visibility

What it isn't

- Advice service
- College support team
- Replacement for local reps

A question for the room...

- What's working well?
- Where are the gaps?
- What would help?

Get your phones out, we'll
capture your thoughts
anonymously on the next slide





If you could improve one thing for collaborative students tomorrow, what would it be?



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**Better student voice.
Better institutions.
Better partnerships.**

