

Briefing Note to :	Student Accommodation Task & Finish Group
Subject:	Student Accommodation Accreditation Mark
Officer responsible for Briefing Note	Karen Collier Service Manager – Health & Community Protection
Date	1 st October 2015

1. Introduction

It is proposed that landlords in the area are invited to learn more about and comment on a new voluntary student accommodation accreditation scheme to be introduced next year. The scheme will give landlords and prospective tenants the knowledge that a property meets the required standard of safety and is of a good state of repair.

2. The Accreditation Mark Standard

In order to qualify for the Accreditation Mark a property must be in a good condition and free from serious hazards. Landlords must adhere to good management practices that are fair and reasonable. In addition to this there will be certain equipment and facilities that are specifically required by students e.g. desk with a chair, washing machine and access to a wireless internet connection. Full details will be made available on Shropshire Council's website.

3. Benefits of the Scheme

The Scheme will give landlords the opportunity to advertise their property through the USC Accommodation Office and will improve communication and information regarding any changes affecting student housing. Students can be assured that all accommodation advertised through the Student Accommodation Office has been inspected and meets the required standards.

4. Proposed fees

Landlords applying for an Accreditation Mark will be required to complete a one-day development course every 3 years (at a cost of £65), agree to comply with a code of conduct and be a fit and proper person. Alternatively, if a property is managed by the University or a letting agent who is accredited with NALS or ARLA, they can also apply for an Accreditation Mark for the property.

The proposed fee for an Accreditation Mark is £135 (in addition to the cost of the one-day training course). The fee will need to be paid for each property and will apply whether or not your property is compliant with the Accreditation Mark criteria. The fee covers any revisits within the first 3 months and is non-refundable.

5. How long does the Accreditation Mark Last

The Accreditation Mark lasts for three years, on expiry a new Accreditation Mark will have to be applied for.