Social Media and Your Role

As a Committee member for your volunteer project (and also as an individual student) you must be aware of how easily you can get yourself and your group into trouble by posting something onto a social media page.

Derogatory comments about the University, staff, other students or members of the public, made on social media can easily lead to you facing disciplinary proceedings, or if you are training on a professional course it could lead to you being assessed to see if you are fit to practice as a member of that profession; which ultimately means you could be discontinued from your course.

The Universities Code of Conduct for Students which you must abide by makes clear that you will be in breach of the Rules and Regulations if you do anything which damages the University name or damages its reputation.

Every year we see students who have got themselves into deep trouble because they did not realise that there is no such thing as a true privacy setting on social media. As soon as you post anything and someone on your friends list "likes" it, it is then seen by outsiders to your list and can go viral.

This does not mean that you cannot raise concerns, but you are expected to raise any issues you may have in an appropriate way – this does NOT mean by posting it on Facebook or tweeting about the problem. The University expects you to talk to them if there are problems so they have a chance to put things right. We can help you do this.

If you are unsure about how to approach a problem on behalf of your volunteer project please come and talk to a member of the Student Activities team in the SU office. If you have an individual or personal issue, then please contact a member of the SU Advice Team, who can provide you with independent and confidential advice.

We can help you to deal with the problem and get it resolved.
If you do get yourself or your volunteer project into trouble, then tell us, so we can make sure it does not get worse!
Possible Scenarios Include:

- Comments re other student groups
- Comments re unsafe facilities
- Personal abuse
- Discriminatory comments
- Offensive language and or images
- Unprofessional behaviour of members of your project
- Bullying