

u3a Canterbury & District Safeguarding Policy

Our Commitments

1. Our u3a committee accepts that it has a duty of care to all u3a Canterbury & District members and is committed to upholding this safeguarding policy in order to protect them.
2. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and members must bring any safeguarding concerns they have to their committee (this can be via their group leader). Members should follow their own commonsense and not keep any concerns they have to themselves.
3. We recognise that some people are potentially at risk of abuse and neglect. Where abuse or neglect is suspected, we will aim to respond in a prompt and efficient manner to any situation where there is a risk of or perceived risk to them or our u3a.
4. We recognise that there are various forms of abuse which can be perpetrated by volunteers, members, relatives, friends, and neighbours. We will not condone nor tolerate any form of abuse or neglect and believe that all people should be able and, where necessary, enabled to live in an environment which is safe and free from harm.
5. We will put the well-being of those at risk of harm first, and they will be actively supported to communicate their views and the outcomes they want to achieve. Those views and wishes will be respected and supported unless there are overriding reasons not to. Any actions taken will respect the rights and dignity of all those involved and be proportionate to the risk of harm.
6. We do not hold any statutory authority. Matters of concern will be reported to the relevant safeguarding authorities and charity regulatory authorities, as appropriate. This may include the local authority, the local multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH), or the police in an emergency.
7. Our prime focus will be to safeguard our members irrespective of whether their perceived abuser is a u3a Canterbury & District member or not.

This policy was adopted on 9th October 2023 and will be reviewed in October 2024

Signed

Robin Terry

Chair

9th October 2023

