



PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

Policy Statement

Chester U3A recognizes that the services it provides may be used by adults who are vulnerable or may be vulnerable at certain times.

Chester U3A has a duty to ensure the welfare of vulnerable adults who may be at risk. This duty involves reporting the risk to an appropriate agency and RIBI, and by promoting a safe environment within the organisation.

Chester U3A believes that vulnerable adults must be safeguarded from all forms of abuse. It recognises that it must at all times protect vulnerable adults from the risk of abuse and identify and deal with specific instances of abuse if they occur.

Chester U3A will take every possible action to prevent abuse and to deal with it as promptly and effectively as possible if it occurs.

Aim of the Policy

The central aim of this Safeguarding Policy is to inform all members of:

- Chester U3A approach to the Safeguarding of vulnerable adults
- ways in which the Chester U3A does this
- the steps taken to avoid abuse taking place
- the actions that will be taken by Chester U3A to deal with abuse if it occurs

Definition of Abuse

Abuse of members may take any of the following forms:

- physical abuse
- financial or material abuse
- psychological abuse
- sexual abuse
- neglect
- discriminatory abuse
- inhuman or degrading treatment
- inappropriate or excessive restraint.

Responsibility

Chester U3A has a duty to report serious concerns relating to abuse to appropriate agencies including the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS)* .

Chester U3A has a duty to ensure that members or others who may be supporting U3A activities that include working with vulnerable adults adopt safe practices.

Chester U3A will:

- Set out and inform members of the procedures for responding to suspicions or evidence of abuse
- Incorporate material relevant to issues of abuse on the Chester U3A website
- Maintain vigilance concerning the possibility of abuse of vulnerable adults from whatever source
- Encourage a climate of openness which enables members to pass on concerns about behaviour that might be abusive
- Produce and regularly revise policies and procedures to minimise the risk of abuse
- Investigate any allegations of abuse quickly and thoroughly
- Implement improvements to procedures if an investigation reveals deficiencies in the way in which RIBI operates
- Collaborate with other relevant agencies in combating abuse and improving the protection of vulnerable adults

Chester U3A expects its members to:

- Refrain from any abusive action in relation to vulnerable adults
- Report to the Committee anything they witness which is or might be abusive
- Co-operate in any investigation into alleged abuse.

Chester U3A members should be aware of who they may turn to for advice if they become aware or suspect that abuse is occurring.

Failure by members to report incidents or suspicions of abuse may lead to revocation of membership.

** or relevant authority*

Adopted: Nov 2018

Revised: