

DRIFFIELD & WOLDS U3A Safeguarding Policy and Procedures Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Driffield & Wolds U3A is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of its members. All members should show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of others and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the U3A. We recognise that some people are at risk of abuse and neglect as a result of health, disability, age, mental capacity. Abuse and neglect can be perpetrated by volunteers, other members, relatives, friends and neighbours.

Driffield & Wolds U3A acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all people entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members.

Driffield & Wolds U3A confirms that it adheres to this Safeguarding Policy and the procedures, practices and guidelines. We will follow the guidance of the policy in the event of any concerns or allegations.

In all situations Driffield & Wolds U3A believes that everyone is entitled to:

- Privacy
- Be treated with dignity and respect Lead an independent life and be enabled to do so
- Choose how they live their lives
- The protection of the law
- Have their human and civil rights upheld

The key principles of this policy are as follows:

- The welfare of the member is, and must always be, paramount to any other consideration
- U3A events and activities for members will follow and adhere to the National U3A's policy guidelines
- All participants regardless of age, gender, ability or disability, race, faith, culture, language or sexual orientation, have the right to be protected from abuse or harm
- All allegations, suspicions or concerns of abuse, neglect, harm and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately
- A report to the Driffield & Wolds U3A committee will be made annually and resulting from every incident.
- The Policy and Procedures will be reviewed annually

This U3A recognises that all members have the right to participate in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment whilst at the same time being protected from abuse, neglect, harm and poor practice.

This U3A recognises that safeguarding is the responsibility of every adult involved.

Driffield & Wolds U3A will appoint a Safeguarding Officer (SO) to deal with any issues concerning Safeguarding and Member Protection and notify this person to all members. The SOs for Driffield & Wolds U3A is Ann Wilkinson.

This policy and procedures supersedes any previous document relating to Safeguarding

Procedures

Driffield & Wolds U3A has a responsibility to ensure that its committee and Group Leaders understand this policy

Drifffield & Wolds U3A will support the alleged victims and the alleged perpetrators of any abuse as well as any member who becomes aware of the abuse in so far as this does not compromise any safeguarding enquiry or investigation into the allegation or place other adults at risk.

While every effort will be made to respect the confidentiality of any information that is disclosed under this policy and procedure, this cannot be guaranteed. Information will be recorded and stored securely but confidentiality is not absolute and any information may have to be shared, on a need-to-know basis only, to prevent: danger to life; to a persons health; to others; to the community; to facilitate the investigation of a serious crime.

As far as possible, the wishes of the adult at risk will be respected to whether or not to refer any concerns to the local authority as a safeguarding enquiry under section 42 of the Care Act 2014.

If you witness or are aware of an incident where you are concerned the welfare of a member has been put at risk you must, in the first instance, inform the SO using the attached form. Please complete the form with as much detail as possible. At no time should the alleged victim or alleged perpetrator be interrogated, simply note what was seen, heard or said.

If at any time you are not able to contact your SO then you should refer the matter to another member of the Drifffield & Wolds Executive Committee.

The SO will keep the committee informed of any incident and report the matter to the Advice and Volunteer Manager at National Office. Working with the national officer a decision will be taken as to whether or not to refer the matter to the Police or Social Services of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

Contact details

- Safeguarding Officer – ANN WILKINSON. Tel: 01377 254144.
Email: wilkynaff@yahoo.co.uk
- Police: Tel: 101
- East Riding Social Services - Tel: 01482 396940.
Email: - safeguardingadultsteam@eastriding.gcsx.gov.uk

For help or advice contact one of the following organisations:

- Age UK - tel: 0800 0556112. Website: www.ageuk.org.uk
- Alzheimer's Society - tel: 0300 2221122. Website: www.alzheimers.org.uk
- Action on elder abuse - tel: 0808 808141. Website: www.elderabuse.org.uk
- Mind - tel: 0300 1233393. Website: www.mind.org.uk
- Mencap - tel: 0808 8081111. Website: www.mencap.org.uk