

Dulwich & District U3A CIO Constitution FAQs

What is a CIO?

A charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) is a new form of legal entity designed for non-profit organisations in the United Kingdom.

Why do we need a new constitution?

The benefits of the new entity are that it has legal personality, the ability to conduct business in its own name, and limited liability so that its members and trustees will not have to contribute in the event of financial loss. These are already available to limited companies; charities can be formed as companies, but then they must be registered with both Companies House and the Charity Commission. In contrast, the CIO only needs to register with the Charity Commission. This is expected to reduce bureaucracy for the charity.

Will Dulwich & District still be a charity?

We will continue to be a registered charity but will need to re-register with our new identity.

What advice has been taken in producing this new constitution?

The Charity Commission model CIO constitution has been used, with advice from the Third Age Trust Headquarters and the Third Age Trustee for the London region.

What happens to our existing constitution?

Our current constitution is based on a model provided by the Third Age Trust. Any important areas not covered by the model CIO constitution will be incorporated in our new Dulwich & District U3A CIO constitution under 'local Rules'

How will the change affect the governance of the U3A?

A committee of trustees will be elected; this will be of a similar size to the existing committee with similar powers.

Will there be limits to trustees' length of Service on the committee?

Officer limits will be introduced in line with the motion passed at our AGM, and there will also be limits on non-officer trustees.

What changes will members notice?

There will be no change to the way our Groups function or to our programme of Talks.

Will the new structure have any financial repercussions?

There will be no additional costs and membership fee will not be affected.