



Hillingdon U3A Safeguarding Policy

Hillingdon U3A follows the Third Age Trust governing body policy of providing equality of opportunity to all members regardless of social standing, ethnicity, language, gender, ability or disability, faith or educational background. Hillingdon U3A will make all reasonable efforts to facilitate membership for adults who need care and support, or who are experiencing or are at risk of abuse or neglect. Hillingdon U3A is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of its members and providing a safe environment for them.

All members should show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of other members and conduct themselves in such a way that reflects the principles of U3A. Everybody has different levels of vulnerability and each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time. All members who may be vulnerable have a right to protection from all types of harm or abuse, be it mental or physical.

In all our activities Hillingdon U3A will;

- Value, listen and respect members who may have care or support needs
- Ensure that all members feel welcome, respected and safe from abuse or harm.
- Recognise equality amongst people and relationships.
- Do all we can to help members who may be vulnerable to be and remain active contributors within the U3A, and if they are or become unable to participate independently encourage them to bring a companion/carer with them in order that they can enjoy the benefits of U3A membership
- Ensure that all members are aware of their responsibilities to protect other members who may be at risk.

All members of the committee and group leaders should know about and understand this policy.

Hillingdon U3A has appointed a Safeguarding Officer to deal with any issues concerning safeguarding and member protection. All allegations or suspicions of abuse, neglect, harm of members and poor practice should be reported to the Safeguarding Officer and will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately. It is not appropriate for Hillingdon U3A to take the lead role in any safeguarding enquiry but should refer this to the Advice and Volunteer Manager at National Office who will contact the Local Authority. While Hillingdon U3A will make every effort to maintain confidentiality of any information that is disclosed this cannot be guaranteed. Information will be recorded and stored in accordance with GDPR but information may have to be shared on a “need to know” basis to prevent danger to a person’s life or health, danger to others or the community. The Safeguarding Officer may contact the Advice and Volunteer Manager at National Office, the Local Authority or the Police if necessary. The Hillingdon U3A Safeguarding Officer is Judy Peddie, who can be contacted on 07884242525.