

Accessibility Policy

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1. Statement

Moseley, Kings Heath & District U3a is a learning co-operative and membership charity which enables members in their third age to share educational, creative and leisure activities. Members of each U3a draw upon their knowledge, skills and experience to teach and learn from each other (peer to peer learning). Moseley, Kings Heath & District u3a is committed to ensuring that the U3a is as inclusive and accessible as possible for those in their third age who meet the criteria for membership. This policy document should be read alongside Moseley, Kings Heath & District u3a's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

2 Aims of the Policy

This policy has been drawn up to ensure that Moseley, Kings Heath & District u3a takes steps to review accessibility needs for individual members and makes reasonable adjustments, where possible, to accommodate the needs of members with disabilities and/or health related needs. The policy takes into account the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010 and the need for Moseley, Kings Heath & District u3a to avoid discriminating directly or indirectly against members with disabilities and/or health related needs. The policy will act as a reference point for Committee Members, Group Leaders and individual members in terms of the steps Moseley, Kings Heath & District u3a will take. The policy will also identify the parameters of the adjustments that can be made. Moseley, Kings Heath & District u3a is a membership charity and not a service provider, therefore whilst reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure that individuals can participate and can attend with carers to support their needs, there will be certain needs that the u3a will not be able to accommodate due to the level of care that an individual may need.

2. Practical Approaches to Increasing Access

In ensuring equality of access Moseley, Kings Heath & District u3a will take the following steps:

- The Executive Committee will actively seek to appoint a suitable person as Accessibility Coordinator from amongst the membership. This will be a volunteer role/committee member role, reporting to the Safeguarding Coordinator.*
- In the absence of an Accessibility Coordinator, the Safeguarding Coordinator will undertake the role. In the absence of a Safeguarding Coordinator, the role will be carried out in a shared manner by the Executive Committee.*
- Safeguarding issues will be a standard agenda item at every Executive Committee meeting.*
- The Accessibility Coordinator will have responsibility for liaising with Group Leaders on an ongoing basis to ensure that groups are accessible and that group leaders are aware of what the expectations are and what adjustments may need to be made e.g. relocating a group held within someone's home to a wheelchair accessible venue.*
- The Accessibility Coordinator will contact new members who indicate that they have a disability or health related issue that may need additional support and/or adjustment and discuss with them what needs they have and how these could be met – as appropriate.*
- General meetings will, as far as possible, be held at a well lit, fully wheelchair accessible venue, spacious enough to cope with wheelchairs and mobility scooters, with wheelchair accessible toilet and hearing aid loop system, and with a sound system in use.*
- Speakers giving visual presentations will be asked to give a good description of the presentation if there is a possibility that people with visual impairment are present.*
- At the monthly members meetings the front row of seats will be reserved for members who have impaired hearing or vision.*
- Access will be reviewed by the committee on an ongoing basis with a view to considering any additional adjustments that may need to be made e.g. availability of a hearing loop or access to dementia friends training.*

- *Committee members and Group Leaders will receive an induction and/or training designed to support them in having an awareness of and facilitating access.*
- *Group Leaders running groups that require a certain level of fitness and/or mobility will be asked to provide this information to members in advance so that members can decide as to whether the group is suitable for them.*
- *Group Leaders will liaise with the Accessibility Coordinator where there are concerns about an individual's ability to participate.*
- *Moseley, Kings Heath & District u3a will try to ensure that there are a range of groups available that will provide access to members so that members do not feel excluded from too many interest/activity groups.*
- *Moseley, Kings Heath & District u3a will encourage and may require members to bring carers with them to U3a activities, as needed, with no additional cost for the carer. The carer will fall under U3a liability insurance unless they are a professional carer, in which case the individual will be covered by their employer's insurance cover.*
- *Moseley, Kings Heath & District u3a will maintain a database of venues and the facilities offered by each venue to accommodate different needs.*
- *Moseley, Kings Heath & District u3a has a duty of care to all members and this may mean that difficult decisions have to be taken in assessing an individual's ability to participate either in the U3a as a whole or within individual activities. These decisions will always be taken through discussion with the individual member and his or her carer in order to ensure that a fair and considered decision is taken. This may include developing a risk assessment with the individual regarding their ability to participate.*
- *The Moseley Kings Heath & District u3a committee is committed to ensuring this policy is enforced. Members should report any instances where the policy is not being followed to the Safeguarding Coordinator who will advise on any remedial action to be taken in consultation with TAT where appropriate and by referring the issue to the relevant statutory authority, where necessary, in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy.*

3. Adoption

This policy was originally adopted by the Executive Committee of Moseley, Kings Heath & District u3a on 30th of November 2021 and revised in February 2024

4. Review

This policy will be reviewed in February 2027 and every three years thereafter in February.