

CONSTITUTION OF SHROPSHIRE AREA U3As

Note

None of the co-operative activities referred to or implied in this constitution should in any way interfere with the direct relationships individual U3As have with the Third Age Trust.

1. Name

The name of the organisation shall be "Shropshire Area U3As", hereafter called "the Network".

2. Administration

Subject to the matters set out in this constitution, the Network shall be administered and managed by members of the Network.

3. Objects

- 3.1 To provide a forum for the discussion of issues of importance to U3As in the Network.
- 3.2 To enable U3As in the Network to carry out co-operative activities
- 3.3 To assist the development of new U3As.
- 3.4 To assist in the formulation of the collective views of U3As in the network and to present those views for consideration by the Third Age Trust

4. Membership

4.1 Membership of the Network shall be open to U3As in Shropshire and in neighbouring areas interested in furthering the work of the Network, provided that they agree to abide by this constitution and any conditions properly imposed by the Network and to pay an annual subscription as determined by the membership at an Annual General Meeting of the Network.

4.2 At meetings of the Network that votes are taken it will be by a show of hands, and all decisions of the network will be decided by a simple majority of votes of the members present at the network meeting. The quorum at a network meeting will be 50% of the U3As in full membership of the Network. In the event of a tied vote the Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

4.3 At meetings of the Network that votes are taken it will be on the basis of one vote per member U3A

4.4 If at a meeting of the Network there is more than one attendee from a member U3A then the person voting of a member U3A must be identified to the chairman at the beginning of the meeting.

4.5 Regional volunteers shall be invited to attend network meetings.

4.6 The network shall hold a minimum of three meetings in each calendar year.

5. Management

5.1 At the Annual General Meeting, of which 21 days notice has been given, the Network shall elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer for a period of one year. Retiring officers may stand for re-election provided that no-one shall hold the office of Chairman for more than three consecutive years.

5.2 The duties of the officers will be to carry out the policies of the network and provide for the administration, management and control of the affairs and property of the network.

5.3 The Network shall keep minutes of the proceedings at all meetings and these minutes shall be available for inspection should any member request them.

5.4 The Network may from time to time make and alter rules for the conduct of their business, the summoning and conduct of meetings and the custody of documents. No rule may be made which is inconsistent with the constitution.

5.5 The Network may appoint committees or working parties to carry out any of its activities, and determine their terms of reference

5.6 No Network member shall be chargeable or responsible for loss caused by any act done or omitted to be done by him/her or by any other Network member or by reason of any mistake or omission made in good faith by any Network member or by reason of any other matter other than wilful and individual fraud or wrongdoing or actions knowingly beyond the scope of a specific authority or limit thereon on the part of the Network member in question.

6. Powers

In furtherance of the Objects but not otherwise, the Network may exercise powers to –

- i. raise funds, and invite and receive contributions;
- ii. organise and run events such as conferences, lectures, seminars, courses, exhibitions and workshops;
- iii. publish books, pamphlets, reports, leaflets and instructional materials, and produce films and videos;
- iv. support the activities of the Third Age Trust; and
- v. carry out all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the Objects.

7. Finance

- 7.1 The funds of the Network shall be paid into an account operated by the Network in the name of Shropshire Area U3As at such bank as the Network shall from time to time decide. All cheques drawn on the account must be signed by any two of the officers elected in accordance with paragraph 5.1.
- 7.2 The funds belonging to the Network shall be applied only in furthering the Objects.
- 7.3 No funds shall be transferred in any way to Network members, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of Network work.
- 7.4 All proper costs, charges and expenses incidental to the management of the Network may be defrayed from the funds of the Network.
- 7.5 The treasurer shall keep records to show details of receipts and payments and report financial details at each Network meeting.
- 7.6 In the event of the winding up of the Network any funds remaining shall be divided on an equal basis between member U3As at the time of winding up.

8. Accounts

The Network shall be responsible for -

- a) the keeping of accounting records for the Network;**
- b) the preparation of annual statements of account for the Network;**
- and**
- c) the independent examination of the statements of account of the Network.**

9. Alterations to the Constitution

The Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at a General Meeting of the Network. The notice of the meeting must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed.