

Tenterden U3A Accessibility Policy Statement

Tenterden U3A will take all reasonable steps to ensure that existing and potential members with impaired mobility, hearing or vision can participate as fully as possible in both general meetings and interest/activity groups. The practical guidelines below are intended to facilitate this, and have been produced by the Accessibility Member taking account of advice notes from the Third Age Trust and the committee. The guidelines will be amended as necessary in the light of further experience. As the choice of venue and the facilities offered by those venues will often be critical for accessibility.

The Committee will nominate one member to have particular responsibility for accessibility. This Committee member will be available to any member with accessibility problems or concerns in relation to mobility, hearing or vision, to discuss how U3A Tenterden can best help him/her participate in and benefit from U3A activities. Members who cannot manage to participate in their chosen U3A activities without help may bring a companion/carer with them, who for the time that they are in attendance, will be covered by the liability insurance provided by The Third Age Trust. The only exception to this is a professionally employed carer who would have to be covered by an individual liability policy.

Guidelines for General Meetings

General meetings and large open interest group 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 a sound system in use.

The person in charge of the meeting should remind those attending the location of toilets and identify emergency evacuation routes.

At the monthly Members Meetings the front row of seats will be prioritised for members who have impaired hearing or vision.

Guidelines for Interest Group Meetings

Interest groups will take all reasonable steps to make their activities accessible and available to members and potential members with impairment of mobility, hearing or sight. Clearly there will be some activities of a physical nature, such as sports or walking, where participation has to be restricted for some if not all sessions. This should be carefully explained by group leaders to members or potential members and any difficulties should be reported to the committee member responsible for accessibility.

All interest groups should endeavour to use premises that are accessible to group members or aspirant members with impaired mobility.

Tenterden U3A Accessibility Policy can be found on the U3A Tenterden website.

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