



Warsash u3a

Policy

in respect of

Accessibility for Disabled Members

Issue	Status	Date approved	Date for review
A	Original adopted by Steering Committee January 2017 Re-formatted 04 2017, with minor revisions. draft for ExCo approval	Approved at ExCo of 08 May 2017 with minor revisions, and subject to addition of names at 6	May 2018
B	New Logo added. Font and size changed.	Jan 2021	Jan 2022

- 1 Warsash u3a will do all we can to be as accessible as possible both to our existing members and to third agers in their local communities who may wish to join. We will take all reasonable steps to ensure that people with disabilities can attend the u3a activities of their choice, without necessarily needing a companion / carer with them to reassure them.
- 2 Members who cannot manage to participate in their chosen u3a activities without help, will be given the opportunity to 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 to be covered by an individual liability policy.
- 3 **VENUES – GENERAL and MONTHLY MEETINGS**
- As far as possible we will ensure that our venues fulfil the following criteria:
- 1 Served by public transport.
 - 2 Adequate car parking facilities onsite or very close at hand including disabled parking bays.
 - 3 Ramp for building access.
 - 4 Ground floor accommodation where possible.
 - 5 Accessible and usable disabled toilet facilities.
 - 6 Good disabled access.
 - 7 A sound system.
 - 8 Spacious enough to cope with wheelchairs/mobility scooters.
 - 9 Good lighting.
 - 10 Access to heating/air conditioning controls.
 - 11 Making a map and directions available for new members.
 - 12 Having a designated person at our monthly meetings who is easily identifiable, to ensure disabled members are provided with appropriate seating e.g. at the front for those who have vision or hearing loss and at the end of a row for those with mobility problems etc.
 - 13 Timing and length of meetings – e.g. not too early, not too late and not too long without a break.

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VENUES – INTEREST / ACTIVITY GROUPS

We will try to have a balance between groups in members' homes (which tend to be inaccessible) and outside accommodation which ideally will be suitable for all.

A member's home may be accessible because it has a level entrance or a wide doorway or a ground floor toilet or no internal stairs.

If a disabled member wants to attend a group held in a house which is inaccessible for any reason, we will investigate whether there are any other options available, for example, could the group be hosted by that member.

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COMMUNICATION

We will ensure that a member of the committee takes responsibility for maintaining contact with all disabled members to discover whether anything can reasonably be done by the committee to make life easier for them whilst they are participating in u3a activities.

Rather than assuming we know the difficulties they face we will talk to them. If having done all we can to make our interest/activity groups accessible and open to disabled members we find that there are still members who cannot participate in their chosen activities then they are able to bring a companion or carer with them for support, who may happen to be a nominated u3a member as well and who must remain for the extent of the activity. This should allow all members with a disability to continue to be able to participate and enjoy u3a and at the same time avoid other members getting involved in providing assistance which they are not insured to do.

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DESIGNATED PERSONS

6.1 In respect of paragraph 3.12, the member designated for giving assistance at monthly meetings is:

Gill Rock.

6.2 In respect of paragraph 5, the committee member responsible for maintaining contact with disabled members is:

Gill Rock.