

Whitworth u3a Welfare Policy

Whitworth u3a is committed to ensuring that all its members are appropriately cared for when engaged in u3a activities. This care includes endeavouring to ensure physical and emotional wellbeing and safety for ALL members.

At the monthly meeting, a team of Meeters and Greeters fulfil a variety of roles to ensure that all members, new and longstanding, find the atmosphere warm and welcoming. In individual groups, Group Leaders strive to ensure no one feels alone or left out.

Given the age profile of members, instances of illness and death are possible. Whitworth u3a will show concern and care for members who are ill and for their families, in the case of bereavement.

1 Accidents

Whitworth u3a is not required to have qualified First Aiders, however some members of outdoor activity groups have chosen to participate in short First Aid courses, financed by Whitworth u3a.

In the event of an accident or injury during any u3a activity, advice should be sought from any medically qualified member or first aider present, before taking any action regarding the casualty.

In the event of serious situation, the emergency services must be contacted.

All Group Leaders are issued with blank accident forms. On completion, these should be returned to the Chair for separate filing for future reference. (See Appendix 1)

2 Risk Assessments and Health and Safety

Risk Assessment Checklist forms produced by the Third Age Trust are held by Group Leaders to determine any issues of safety during a u3a activity, whether it be indoor or outdoor, with regular reviews should activities, conditions or members change. (See Appendix 2)

Whitworth u3a subscribes to Public and Products Liability Insurance arranged by the Third Age Trust which indemnifies u3a members against claims they could become legally liable to pay in connection with u3a business as a result of: -

- 1 accidental injury or death of any person; or
- 2 accidental loss or damage to property

This indemnity is not personal insurance and would only apply in cases where negligence could be proved.

Welfare secretary

A member of the committee appointed as welfare secretary has responsibility when notified that members may have fallen ill or have died; or physical difficulties and additional needs become apparent. Appropriate action can then be taken. This role is undertaken currently by the Membership Secretary

Physical Difficulties & Additional Needs

If a member requires more than nominal assistance, they may bring their own carer, who will be covered by u3a liability insurance while they are with the disabled member. Professional carers would have to be covered by their own member/employer liability insurance.

A carer accompanying a vulnerable adult to meetings does not have to be a u3a member and will not be charged for attending any u3a meetings.

Whitworth u3a has a separate **Safeguarding Policy**

Agreed at committee on 21st August 2023 adopting guidance from the Third Age Trust.

To be reviewed in August 2025.