

Chesterfield U3A Member Safeguarding Policy

Chesterfield U3A acknowledges its responsibility and is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of its members by providing safe environments for all. Members have the right to participate in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment whilst at the same time being protected from abuse, harm or poor practice. Safety and welfare of others is the responsibility of everyone who should conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the U3A.

Key Principles of the Policy are:

1. The welfare of members is the key consideration
2. Chesterfield U3A events and activities for members will follow and adhere to the National U3A policy guidelines
3. All participants regardless of age, gender, ability, race, faith, size, language or sexual identity have the right to be protected from abuse or harm
4. All allegations, suspicions or concerns of abuse, neglect, harm and poor practice will be taken seriously and where possible, responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.
5. The Chair of the Executive Committee will act as the Safeguarding Officer (SO) and the Deputy Chair as the Deputy Safeguarding Officer (DSO) to deal with issues relating to this policy.
6. The policy covers two possible situations:
 - Mainly to deal with incidents where the welfare of a member has given cause for concern during a U3A activity. This may include mental, physical or emotional abuse by others present. If you witness or are aware of an incident of this kind, you should, in the first instance, inform the SO or DSO. If neither are available then any member of the committee.
 - The other situation would be where you become concerned about a fellow member or someone discloses abuse to you. In this instance it is not appropriate for Chesterfield U3A to take the lead role in any Safeguarding Enquiry under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014, but should refer this to Advice and Volunteer Manager in National Office who will contact the appropriate local authority. If the matter is clearly serious then the member should be encouraged to contact any of the following:
 - ✓ Police or Local Safeguarding Officer 01629533190 - out of hours 01629532600
 - ✓ Age UK 08006781602 www.ageuk.org.uk
 - ✓ Action on Elder Abuse 08088088141 (office hours only) www.elderabuse.org.uk
7. This policy will be circulated to all members via the web pages on an annual basis.
8. This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Approved at Exec Meeting 1 August 2019. Review Due Aug 2021