

Safeguarding Policy for Wirral University of the Third Age (U3A)

1. Introduction

Wirral University of the Third Age (U3A), meeting at the Upton Victory Hall Tennis and Bowls Club, is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment for all its members. This safeguarding policy outlines our commitment to protecting the welfare of our members, the majority of whom are retired.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Ensure the safety and well-being of all Wirral U3A members.
- Establish clear procedures for identifying and addressing safeguarding concerns.
- Promote a culture of respect, inclusion, and support within Wirral U3A.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all Wirral U3A members, including the Committee, group leaders, volunteers, and participants in all activities organized by Wirral U3A.

4. Safeguarding Principles

- **Respect and Dignity:** All members should be treated with respect and dignity, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, or background.
- **Empowerment:** Members should be supported in making their own decisions and informed about safeguarding practices.
- **Prevention:** Safeguarding risks should be identified early, and steps should be taken to prevent harm.
- **Proportionality:** Responses to safeguarding concerns should be appropriate to the level of risk.
- **Accountability:** All safeguarding concerns must be documented and reported in accordance with this policy.

5. Safeguarding Lead

A designated Safeguarding Lead will be appointed from within the Committee to oversee the implementation of this policy and act as the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns.

6. Training and Awareness

- All Committee members and group leaders will receive safeguarding training appropriate to their roles.
- Members will be informed about the safeguarding policy and procedures at the beginning of each year and upon joining the Wirral U3A.
- Regular reminders about safeguarding practices will be provided at meetings and in communications.

7. Recognizing Safeguarding Concerns

Safeguarding concerns may arise from:

- Physical, verbal, emotional, or financial abuse.
- Neglect or self-neglect.
- Discrimination or harassment.
- Unsafe or inappropriate behavior by another member.
- Health and safety hazards.

8. Reporting Procedures

- Any member who has a safeguarding concern should report it to the Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible.
- The Safeguarding Lead will assess the concern and determine the appropriate course of action, which may include:
- Speaking with the individual involved to gather more information.
- Reporting the concern to external authorities (e.g., Adult Social Care, the Police) if there is an immediate risk of harm.
- Referring the matter to the U3A National Office for advice.

9. Confidentiality

- All safeguarding concerns will be handled with the utmost confidentiality. Information will only be shared with those who need to know to ensure the safety of the member(s) involved.
- Records of safeguarding concerns will be kept securely and only accessible by the Safeguarding Lead and the Committee.

10. Support for Members

- Wirral U3A is committed to providing support to members who raise safeguarding concerns.
- Where appropriate, the group will offer referrals to external support services.

11. Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually by the Committee and updated as necessary to reflect changes in safeguarding legislation or guidance.
- Feedback from members on safeguarding issues will be sought regularly to ensure the effectiveness of the policy.

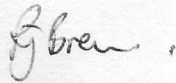
12. Contact Information

- Safeguarding Lead: Ros Brennan
- Email: [Safeguarding Lead's Email]
- Emergency Contacts:

- Wirral Adult Social Care: Central Advice and Duty Team call in confidence 0151 606 2006, Monday to Friday 8:50am to 5:00pm: all other times and on public holidays call 0151 677 6557
- email: cadt@wirral.gov.uk
- Police Non-Emergency Number: 101
- In an emergency, dial 999.

This safeguarding policy is approved by the Wirral U3A Committee and is effective from 16 January 2025.

Signed:



Ros Brennan, Chair of U3A Wirral and Safeguarding Lead