

Tetbury and District u3a Safeguarding Adults Policy

General Principles

All Trustees, Group Leaders and other members of Tetbury and District u3a will do their best to ensure that no-one comes to any harm through their participation in u3a activities and will do their best to ensure that everyone feels supported and safe.

This policy offers advice to all members who may suspect, witness or be informed directly that another u3a member is subject to harm, abuse or neglect. This may happen anywhere and not necessarily be related to Tetbury and District u3a activities. However, 'safeguarding is everybody's business' and we have a duty of care towards our members to consider how to respond if such a circumstance arises.

Adult safeguarding is a complex issue requiring a difficult balance between protecting people from harm and recognising the right of adults to make choices for themselves.

General Advice

We are not social workers or police officers, but we recognise that we must do our best to be alert to what is going on around us. If you are, at any time, made aware of a person possibly in serious difficulty, please do all you can to follow the procedure below:

1. Listen carefully to what you are being told
2. Say that you are taking the matter seriously and seek their consent
3. Make notes as soon as possible on what you have heard
4. Speak to someone appropriate in the given circumstances

In a clear-cut situation that does not involve u3a, and particularly if you feel that there is a high level of risk, you should report your concern promptly and directly to Social Care or the Police.

In the event of a tentative concern, or if the incident(s) happened within Tetbury and District u3a, speak initially and confidentially to the Tetbury and District u3a Chair (or vice-chair in their absence)

Given the complexities and possibility of subsequent legal action, it is not appropriate for Tetbury and District u3a to take the lead in any further enquiry. If appropriate, the Chair or Vice-Chair will therefore discuss the situation at the earliest possible opportunity with the national Advice and Volunteer Manager at the Third Age Trust.

Reviewed 27 September 2021 (LDM)