



Hamilton and District

Safeguarding Policy and Procedure

The following policy is based on a template provided by the Third Age Trust.

If you have a safeguarding issue, you can report it to our Safeguarding Officer as listed on your membership card.

Policy Statement

This policy is written to enable the Committee to act appropriately whenever possible or where instances, or allegations, of abuse or neglect are brought to their attention.

Hamilton and District u3a recognises that some people are potentially at risk of abuse.

Where abuse or neglect is suspected, Hamilton and District u3a will aim to respond to the situation in a way which is caring, effective and enabling.

Hamilton and District u3a will neither condone nor tolerate any form of abuse and believes that all people should be able, and where necessary enabled, to participate in an environment which is safe.

In all situations, Hamilton and District u3a believes that everyone is entitled to:

- privacy
- be treated with dignity and respect
- lead an independent life and be enabled to do so
- choose how they live their lives
- the protection of the law
- have their human and civil rights upheld regardless of ethnic origin, gender orientation, sexuality, ability, disability, age, religion, lifestyle or cultural background.

It is not appropriate for Hamilton and District u3a to take the lead role in any Safeguarding Enquiry. The Adult Support and Protection Act 2007 provides ways to offer support and protection to adults who may be at risk of harm or neglect. Where concerns have been raised regarding abuse or neglect, the Committee will seek advice and support from the u3a Trust.

Hamilton and District u3a will monitor the implementation of this policy and procedure through its Committee.

Procedure

- Hamilton and District u3a recognises that it has a responsibility to ensure that its committee and group leaders are aware of, understand and accept the policy.
- Hamilton and District u3a will support alleged victims and alleged perpetrators of any abuse as well as any volunteer who becomes aware of an allegation in so far as this does not compromise any safeguarding enquiry or investigation or place other adults at risk.
- Hamilton and District u3a will make every effort to respect the confidentiality of any information that is disclosed under this policy and procedure. However, this cannot be guaranteed. Information will be recorded and stored securely in accordance with Data Protection Act 2018 but information may have to be shared on a need -to-know basis only to prevent:
 - danger to a person's life
 - danger to a person's health
 - danger to others
 - danger to the communityor to prevent or facilitate the investigation of a serious crime.

This policy was adopted : August 2021

Policy review date : August 2024.