

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

It is the right of everyone to be able to live their lives free from abuse, harm, neglect, and to have assured their health, well-being, and human rights. Everybody has different levels of vulnerability, and each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time. Safeguarding is the process by which communities and organisations seek to exercise their Duty of Care to protect all individuals in this context.

West Wolds U3A (WWu3a) recognises that, following the principles of the U3A UK movement, it has a duty of care to its members and stands fully committed to Safeguarding the well being of those members. This policy will enable the membership to understand their valuable role in the Safeguarding process, and to assist the Committee to take appropriate action quickly and effectively, should the need arise. The following principles form the core of the policy:

- a) All WWu3a members have the right to participate in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment whilst being protected from abuse, neglect, and discrimination.
- b) All WWu3a members have the right to be protected from abuse or harm, regardless of age, gender, ability or disability, race, faith, culture, size, shape, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.
- c) All allegations, suspicions or concerns of abuse, neglect, harm or poor practice are to be taken seriously, reported, and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.
- d) The welfare of the member is, and must remain, paramount to any other consideration.
- e) There is a committee member responsible for implementing the Safeguarding Policy - please refer to the website for details of who this is. A Guidance document is available on request.
- f) If there are suspicions that Safeguarding incidents affecting a WWu3a member are taking place outside the WWu3a setting these are to be reported to the Safeguarding Officer who will, with the permission of the subject person, connect with the appropriate statutory body for example: National U3A Office, Police, Local Authority under Section 42 of Care Act 2014, Social Services etc. If there is an immediate risk of danger, call 999.

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Agencies that may be useful

Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board – 01522 782155 (01522 782333 out of hours)

Age UK 0800 678 1602 www.ageuk.org.uk

Support Line – confidential emotional telephone support – 01708 765200 info@supportline.org.uk

Mind – Mental Health Support – 0300 123 3393 text: 86463 info@mind.org.uk

Samaritans – 24-hour helpline 116 123 jo@samaritians.org.uk

Police non-emergency 24-hour helpline 101

Victim Support – 0808 168 9111 victimsupport.org.uk

Support for Survivors – 0115 962 2722 hello@supportforsurvivors.org

Elder Abuse 0800 0699 784

National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247 www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

Lincolnshire County Council Safeguarding Team 01522 782155 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm) or 01522 782333 (outside office hours)