

## **PN11 Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy**

Exmouth and District U3A is committed to fulfilling the requirements of the relevant legislation aimed at the protection of vulnerable adults (The Care Act 2014).

A recognised definition of vulnerability is: Any adult aged 18, or over, who, by reason of mental, or other disability, age, illness, or other situation is permanently, or for the time being unable to take care of him or herself, or to protect him, or herself against significant harm, or exploitation.

Exmouth and District U3A recognises that adults can be harmed because they are vulnerable for various reasons, whether permanently or on a temporary basis, and this harm can take place in their own homes, in residential care, at work or in activities including those provided by Exmouth and District U3A. Some adults, who do not see themselves as 'vulnerable' under this definition, may still find themselves exploited, bullied or abused. The safeguarding of adults when harm occurs is the responsibility of everyone.

Exmouth and District U3A is committed to ensuring that all people are treated with respect and that any complaints are dealt with promptly and fairly. Safeguarding adults is based on kindness and good practice.

Any member of Exmouth and District U3A who is concerned for a vulnerable adult must inform the Chair making sure that what is said is confidential and cannot be overheard by anyone else.

All such information must be confirmed by email or letter: describe the circumstances of any disclosure (e.g. description of activity), and record the date and time of the event. Record as many details as you can, but do not make up or guess any information that you do not know.

Exmouth and District U3A Chair will then, in consultation with appropriate committee members, determine further appropriate action.

On rare occasions it may be necessary to take immediate action to contact Social Services and/or Police to discuss putting into effect safety measures for the adult so that they do not suffer further abuse.

In any event the Exmouth and District U3A Chair will pass the report on to Care Direct.

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It is not the duty of the Exmouth and District U3A Chair, or any other member, to investigate any allegation of abuse or suspected abuse. That investigation is the responsibility of Devon County Council Social Services.

If concerns relate more generally to the individual's well being, help and advice should be sought from the Chair in conjunction with appropriate committee members.

All members of Exmouth and District U3A must be aware of the strict duty of confidentiality and any information concerning abuse or suspected abuse.

Signature

Date