

Accessibility Policy for Christchurch U3As

Statement

Christchurch U3A is a learning co-operative and membership charity which enables members to share educational, creative and leisure activities. Members of the U3A draw upon their knowledge, skills and experience to teach and learn from each other (peer to peer learning). Christchurch U3A is committed to ensuring that the U3A is as inclusive and accessible as possible. This policy document should be read alongside Christchurch U3A's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

Aims of the Policy

This policy ensures that Christchurch U3A takes steps to review accessibility needs for individual members and makes reasonable adjustments, where possible, to accommodate the needs of members with disabilities and/or health related needs.

The policy takes into account the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010 and the need for Christchurch U3A to avoid discriminating directly or indirectly against members with disabilities and/or health related needs. The policy will act as a reference point for Committee Members, Group Leaders and individual members in terms of the steps Christchurch U3A will take.

Christchurch U3A is a membership charity and not a service provider, therefore whilst reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure that individuals can participate and can attend with carers to support their needs, there will be certain needs that the U3A will not be able to accommodate due to the level of care that an individual may need.

Practical Approaches to Increasing Access

In ensuring equality of access Christchurch U3A will take the following steps:

- The Group Coordinator will have responsibility for liaising with Group Leaders to ensure that groups are accessible and that group leaders are aware of what the expectations are and what adjustments may need to be made e.g. relocating a group held within someone's home to a wheelchair accessible venue.
- General meetings will, as far as possible, be held at a well-lit, fully wheelchair accessible venue, spacious enough to cope with wheelchairs and mobility scooters, with wheelchair accessible toilet and hearing aid loop system, and with a sound system in use.
- Speakers giving visual presentations will be asked to give a good description of the presentation if there is a possibility that people with visual impairment are present.
- At the monthly members meetings the front row of seats will be reserved for members who have impaired hearing or vision.
- Group Leaders running groups that require a certain level of fitness and/or mobility will be asked to provide this information to members in advance so that members can decide as to whether the group is suitable for them.



- Group Leaders will liaise with the Group Coordinator where there are concerns about an individual’s ability to participate.
- Christchurch U3A will encourage and may require members to bring carers with them to U3A activities, as needed, with no additional cost for the carer. The carer will fall under U3A liability insurance unless they are a professional carer, in which case the individual will be covered by their employer’s insurance cover.
- Christchurch U3A will maintain a database of venues and the facilities offered by each venue to accommodate different needs.
- Christchurch U3A has a duty of care to all members and this may mean that difficult decisions have to be taken in assessing an individual’s ability to participate either in the U3A as a whole or within individual activities. These decisions will always be taken through discussion with the individual member and his or her carer in order to ensure that a fair and considered decision is taken. This may include developing a risk assessment with the individual regarding their ability to participate.

U3a TAT Approvals

•	Doc: Accessibility policy Sample (England, Scotland and Wales) Sample-U3A - KMS-POL-007	The Third Age Trust
Version	Description of changes	Date
2.0	Updated formatting	19/11/2021

Christchurch u3a Approvals

Version	Description of changes	Date
1.A	Policy adopted from TAT Version 2.0 with minor changes.	1 September 2024