

## Safeguarding Policy Statement

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

Eastwood & District U3A recognises that some people are potentially at risk of abuse and neglect. Abuse and neglect can take place in a person's own home, in the home of a carer, family member or friend, and within any form of institution e.g. hospitals, residential care or nursing home.

Where abuse or neglect is suspected, Eastwood & District U3A will aim to respond to the situation in a way which is caring, effective and enabling. Eastwood & District U3A also recognises that abuse and neglect can be perpetrated by volunteers, other users of services, relatives, friends and neighbours. Eastwood & District U3A acknowledges that the reasons for abuse and neglect occurring may not be fully understood and vary with each incident, often dependant on risk factors.

Eastwood & District U3A will neither condone nor tolerate any form of abuse or neglect and believes that all people should be able and, where necessary enabled, to live and to participate in an environment which is safe and without risk.

In all situations, Eastwood & District U3A believes that everyone is entitled to:

- privacy
- be treated with dignity and respect
- lead an independent life and to 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, sexuality, impairment or disability, age, religious or cultural background.

In the first instance, Eastwood & District U3A will report any incident directly to the local authority and/or the police, as appropriate. Where the Local Authority deem it necessary to undertake a Safeguarding Enquiry under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014, Eastwood & District U3A would then also inform the Advice & Volunteer Manager at National Office for further direction.

Eastwood & District U3A will monitor the implementation of this policy and procedure annually through its Executive Committee.

Policy review date: *February 2021*