

Hastings & Rother u3a

Health & Safety Policy

Purpose

This policy should not be confused with Safeguarding. Where Safeguarding is about protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect, Health & Safety is about minimising or removing the risk of accidents and injuries.

Scope

Whilst the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 only applies to paid workers, volunteers must still be protected from risks and reasonable care must be taken to avoid harming others and participants should be aware of the risks. Hastings & Rother u3a aims to provide and maintain safe and healthy conditions and environments for all members during the meeting of u3a groups, monthly meetings and at events.

Insurance

Hastings & Rother u3a is covered by the insurance provided by The Third Age Trust. Further details about the insurance cover can be accessed on the u3a website (www.u3a.org.uk/advice). If any activities are being considered that Hastings & Rother u3a is unsure if they are covered, they will contact the u3a Office for further advice. The Third Age Trust provides third party liability insurance however extreme sports and high hazard activities may not be covered. Please check before running an activity.

Risk Assessments

Hastings & Rother u3a will ensure the Committee, Group Leaders or those responsible for a meeting or event complete a risk assessment(s). These will be used to identify any risks and explore how they could be mitigated. Hastings & Rother u3a is aware that some venues used for meetings/events may already have their own risk assessment, these should be reviewed and where mitigations identified, ensure they are actioned. For example, a venue may state that no more than five chairs should be stacked together and or nothing placed in the way of fire escapes. Where relevant, clear instructions and guidance should be provided to anyone who requires it. Further information, guidance and templates about risk assessments can be downloaded from the National u3a website: www.u3a.org.uk/advice

Responding to accidents/incidents and dealing with emergencies

In the event of an incident/accident the Chair or appropriate member of the Hastings & Rother u3a committee should be informed as soon as appropriate. Where a u3a member is involved in an accident or incident whilst taking part in a u3a event Hastings & Rother u3a will ensure those who witnessed the event and were involved complete an incident report (template available to download from www.u3a.org.uk/advice and from www.hastings-rother.u3a.org.uk). This must be completed and shared with those who need to have access to it, including the Business Secretary and Committee Chair and kept on file. It may also need to be shared with the insurers in the event of an insurance claim.



Lone volunteering

There may be occasions where u3a members may be carrying out activities for Hastings & Rother u3a on their own. For example, opening a venue for a meeting, setting up for a meeting etc. Where this occurs the u3a member should ensure someone else knows where they are and when they should be expected back. The u3a member should also know who to contact in the event of an incident or accident and ensure they have, for example, their mobile phone with them and avoid activities at height e.g. using a ladder.

Manual handling

All u3a members should think about safe manual handling in advance to avoid injury to themselves and others. Members should not carry out any manual handling tasks if they are not able to manage them and should ask for help from other u3a members.

Venues

Where Hastings & Rother u3a uses external venues which have their own policies and procedures and risk assessments, Hastings & Rother u3a will ensure these are followed. This will include making sure all u3a members in attendance are aware of what to do in the event of a fire alarm/evacuation. If Hastings & Rother u3a is hosting an open day this will also include ensuring those who are not u3a members are also informed.

Related documentation

Hastings & Rother u3a will ensure this policy is kept up to date and reviewed annually.

Template documents are available on the National u3a website (www.u3a.org.uk/advice) to support u3as develop, approve and adopt this policy.

This policy was adopted on: 9 June 2026

Signed:



Print name: Richard Stanton (Chair)

Policy review date: May 2027

u3a	H&R u3a Health and Safety Policy	The Third Age Trust
Version	Description of changes	Date
1.0	Adopted	May 2026