

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

It is the policy of March u3a that its various activities are, as far as is reasonably practicable, conducted with the safety of all participants paramount.

Nominated Safety Officer (NSO)

Overall responsibility for Safety lies with the Safety Officer whose name shall be published in the committee members function list. The Safety Officer is to confirm that committee members and Group Leaders are conversant with the Policy, satisfying him/herself, that where necessary, appropriate steps to mitigate any inherent risks/dangers (see Paragraph 3) have been initiated.

Activities

Within March u3a, Groups cover a wide range of activities each with different and changing risks/dangers. Some Groups have little or no risk associated with them. It is not practicable therefore to produce guidelines for every eventuality and in most cases normal common sense will suffice.

Risk Assessments

Group Leaders of the more physical activities will normally be required to carry out a Risk Assessment of their specific activity using the relevant form. This should be done in consultation with their participants, the objective being to clearly identify any possible risk/danger associated with the activity. Findings should be graded, High, Medium or Low risk.

- Suggested mitigating action is to be added and the completed Risk Assessment form passed to the Safety Officer for further discussion and confirmation.
- The principles of the agreed Risk Assessment's mitigating action are then to be applied to the activity as far as is reasonably practicable with written or verbal briefings to participants.
- In the event that an outside agency has rules relating to safety, use of their kitchen equipment by u3a members for example, such rules are to be incorporated into our own Risk Assessment .
- The NSO is to maintain a file of completed and confirmed Risk Assessments.

Venues

Group Leaders must satisfy themselves that their chosen venue is suitable. Check any rules for Fire Action, Escape Routes, the use of the venue's own equipment and electrical safety etc. Note the postcode of the venue in case of emergency. Refer any queries or concerns to the NSO.

Possible Risks/Dangers and some points to consider

Fire	Sickness	Falls/Tripping
Injury	First Aid Kits	Water
Getting Lost	Mobile phones	Emergency numbers
Emergency cash	Insurance	Drowning
Inclement weather	Special diets	Asphyxiation
Smoking	Security	Keys
First Aid training	Special medication	Car parking
Third Parties	Disclaimers	Briefing participants

There will be many more depending upon the particular group activity. Risk Assessments will need to be regularly updated as new Groups are formed and circumstances alter.

Forms and Guidance

The following associated documents can be read and downloaded from the March u3a website:

- Guide for Walking Groups
- Walk Leader Risk Assessment Checklist
- Guide for Physical Activity
- Venue Risk Assessment Checklist
- Incident Report Form