

Accessibility for disabled members (including unseen disabilities)

Haywards Heath & District u3a aims to be as accessible and inclusive as possible to all members. All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that people with disabilities can attend the general meetings and the interest groups of their choice.

Members who cannot manage to participate in their chosen u3a activities without help, will be given the opportunity to bring a companion/carer with them, who for the time that they are in attendance, will be covered by the liability insurance provided by The Third Age Trust. This should allow all members with a disability to continue to be able to participate and enjoy activities but at the same time avoid other members getting involved in helping which they are not insured to do. The only exception to this is a professionally employed carer who would have to be covered by an individual liability policy.

Venues:

When looking at possible venues the following criteria is used for guidance. However, as we have no control over the physical building it may not be possible to fulfil all requirements at each venue:

- Adequate car parking facilities
- Easy access to the building
- Ground floor accommodation
- Accessible and usable disabled toilet facilities
- A sound system and loop
- Spacious enough to cope with wheelchairs/mobility scooters
- Good lighting
- Adequate signage
- Access to heating/air conditioning controls

Interest Groups:

Whilst we aim to have a balance between groups in members' homes and public accommodation it has to be accepted that members' homes are not always accessible for someone with a disability. Options could be investigated such as the person with specific needs could host the meeting?

Communication:

First contact should be with the Group Leader of the chosen activity.