

Notts Network of U3As – October 2018

New U3As

Criteria for identifying possible new U3A locations

The Notts Network is resolved to support the growth of the U3A movement by setting up new U3As, where these are appropriate. The Network has decided that we should aspire to open 2 new U3As per year. The Network has adopted a set of simple and explicit criteria to evaluate proposals for new U3As:

- Demographics - does the area proposed have the sort of population to support a U3A?
- Resources - are there suitable venues for meetings, with bus routes, parking etc?
- Relationships with existing U3As - will the new U3A ease pressure on existing U3As or impact adversely on plans for expansion which existing U3As may have in place?
- Alternative sources - are there existing organisations in an area which already do the job of a U3A?

Presented and agreed at Notts Network April 2016.

Consultation Procedure

We believe that it is good practice as well as a courtesy to discuss the possibility of setting up a new U3A in Nottinghamshire with neighbouring U3As. We are advised by Third Age Trust that it is not a requirement. This is the process to be followed:

- A request for a new U3A can come from a member of the public via National Office, a local U3A or a Regional Volunteer. The Regional Trustee should be notified and details forwarded to National Office.
- An email sent from the Support Officer to neighbouring U3As will inform them of a possible new U3A in their area and gather initial feedback.
- Local meeting: to be held *if* neighbouring U3A members call for it. The Support Officer to organise a date and venue for a meeting. The Meeting should be arranged at a no-cost venue with attending members paying for their own refreshments.
- A note of the meeting should be taken and circulated to participating U3As and reported by the Support Officer at the next available Network meeting
- Once agreement has been reached the Regional Trustee will allocate a Regional Volunteer (RV) to the project. The Support Officer with the RV would contact the surrounding U3As asking for assistance in finding a suitable venue, publicity and arranging pre-launch meetings.
- The Support Officer will inform National Office, if they are not already aware, of the request to launch a new U3A in Nottinghamshire.

Presented to Notts Network October 2017; reviewed & confirmed by email vote with no dissenting votes, Summer 2018