

Notts Network Way Forward

Topic	What U3As want	Action Plan
Neighbourhood Clusters	Some U3As have worked in clusters for years. Some are interested; others are not interested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U3As to develop clusters as they see fit. • Network to facilitate contacts as required
Workshops	General support for well organised workshops to address needs identified by the Network (eg induction for Trustees, Communications, IT, Health and Safety, Keeping your U3A Vibrant, recruiting to your committee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notts Network Support Group to organize 2 workshops per year – could be more if more people join the Support Group • Regional Trustee to develop a series of regional workshops in consultation with Notts and other EMids Networks • Network contact to circulate workshop publicity as widely as possible • Workshops planned include: <i>Interest Groups</i> • Ideas for workshops include: <i>Publicity, New Members, Treasurers, Improving U3As, Website and Newsletters, Ageing today, Encouraging Volunteering</i>
Share Good Practice	U3As want more opportunities to share ideas and experience, describe problems and learn how others have addressed similar problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Peer Support Groups • Support Group to use <i>News Bites</i> and Website to promote and share good practice • One or two U3As to be invited to introduce themselves and summarize and share good practice at Network Meetings
Peer Support Groups (PSGs)	There seems to be general support for this idea. The idea has been piloted and works well.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Notts U3As to consider what they can offer as a Peer Support Group • Notts Network to circulate information and advertise details as widely as possible. • PSGs already run include: <i>Newsletter Editors; Wine Tasting</i> • PSGs in the pipeline include: <i>Educational Trips and Visits; Group Coordinators; Business Secretaries; New Member Secretaries; Music; Book Groups; Italian; Speaker Seekers</i> • Paul Martinez to act as contact point, maintain a record and provide updated note of tips and wheezes.
Network Meetings	There is general support for Network meetings along the sort of lines that are currently operated,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One or two U3As to be invited to introduce themselves and summarize and share good practice at Network

	with a general qualification that meetings should share important information, lead to decisions and actions and avoid becoming a 'talking shop'.	<p>Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For consideration: Should we have an annual social get together for the Network?
External Communications	There are mixed feelings about publicity. On the one hand, some U3As feel that they have attained an optimum size and don't need to publicize much. On the other hand, all U3As recognize the need to raise the public profile of U3As and some see the need for regular publicity to secure continuing recruitment of the newly retired.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Trustee to explore possibility of a Publicity Workshop for Notts run by U3A publicity officer Liz Drury • Network to review need to set up a publicity group after the Publicity Workshop • Publicity Group could facilitate exchange of publicity materials, ideas and experiences between Notts U3As, share templates for news releases etc.
Internal Communications	There is a feeling that Communication within the U3A needs to be improved particularly between the Network and individual U3As and between National Office/TAT and individual U3As	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Group to work with Notts U3As to develop <i>News Bites</i> and Website as vital sources of information and as platforms for networking • Regional Trustee to give as much advance notice as possible of issues/events/plans/ changes from TAT and National Office • All U3As to have a standing item on their Committee agendas for County/ Regional/ National issues • Notts Network to review improvements to national u3A website and communications in Spring 2018
New U3As	The Network is committed to supporting the development of 2 new U3As each year. Concerns have been raised in the past about the process of developing new U3As	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notts Network to share ideas for new U3As as part of the process of reviewing and updating its 3 Year Plan • Officers have developed a Consultation procedure for new U3As, to be shared with the Network and implemented through the SG.