

OFFICER'S REPORT FOR NETWORK MEETING 20.04.16.

It is very obvious that the running of this Network in the past has relied very heavily on the good will of volunteers. However it is now recognised that there are very willing helpers who simply cannot afford not to ask for expenses. We hope that the Network understands this and will be agreeable to us asking for additional financial help.

We have arranged meetings (outside of the Network) at local "free" venues to where the majority of members live, re-arranging times of meetings so that members can use their bus passes and asking members to car share. Meetings are being kept to a minimum with contact being by email or phone.

When trying to answer one of the questions that arose from the 2015 Survey 'What does the Education and Development Officer and Development Team Do?' the Officers wanted to find out if this Team could somehow become more streamlined. The Officers came up with a solution that it should be redefined as a group which "supports the Network". This Group would then be divided into more manageable teams who would take responsibility for a small part of Education and Development. The Officers hope that you will approve and support the proposal of a Network Support Group allowing the individual teams to be set up as soon as possible. However, the Officers do assure you that the opening of new U3As will still be a high priority and the Development Team will still be an important part of this Group

A couple of volunteers have also been recruited to be trained as Regional Volunteers to help with the launching of new U3As and work together with the National Office Training Support Team. This will mean that future launches of a U3A will be much easier. However volunteers from local U3As in the areas to the new U3As will still be asked for their assistance. In the past local U3As have been very supportive and their help has been very much appreciated by the Development Team and it is hoped that this will continue.

The Officers have also received requests for more local workshops to be run. Liz Wilson, who is well-known to many of us, has agreed to take on the role as Team Leader, facilitating the organisation and running of Workshops. We now look forward to a new programme of workshops being organised and information will be circulated shortly.

Requests for extra helpers will also be circulated after the April meeting. The Officers appreciate that you are all very busy within your own U3As but when the Network is asking for help please, please consider offering – or mentioning it to members within your own U3A who may be able to help.

If you wish to discuss any ideas or give constructive advice on how we can continue to move forward please do not hesitate to contact us.

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and

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