South Central Network

SCN Chairs & Vice-Chairs Meeting

Tuesday 27th Oct 2026 10am

Attendees

Kevin Stock	SCN Manager	
Jackie Wiggins	Council Rep	
Sue Derrick	Chair	Botley HE & District
Catherine Hallam	Chair	Warsash
Lyn Moore	Vice-Chair & Sec	Waterlooville

Apologies from:

1. **Welcome** by Kevin Stock, SCN Manager
   Permission was received to record the meeting for the purpose of producing this report.

2. **Introductions** All attendees introduced themselves and said which role(s) they performed.

For this meeting I turned on Zoom's AI Transcribing facility, and this is the report that it produced (after minor corrections by myself).

Quick recap

This meeting was a peer-to-peer discussion for Chairs and Vice-Chairs of u3as in the South Central Network, focusing on challenges and best practices. The main topics covered were whether u3as allow non-members to attend social events, with most groups requiring membership after one or two visitor sessions due to insurance concerns, and the biggest challenges facing u3as including welfare support, volunteer recruitment, and succession planning. Participants shared experiences about handling welfare issues, with some groups having formal welfare officers while others address concerns through committee meetings or designated team members. The discussion also covered practical solutions like creating "VIP tables" for new members and establishing different walking groups to accommodate members with varying abilities.

Next steps

Catherine

- Attend the welfare meeting this Friday and present the topic of welcoming new members.

Jackie

- Clarify the insurance situation regarding non-members attending social events and whether they are covered or if it could invalidate insurance.
- Send out a reminder to secretaries and chairpersons about the upcoming welfare meeting this Friday.

Kevin

- Carry on with the March chairs meeting and re-evaluate whether the SCN chairs meeting should be held once or twice a year.

Summary

u3a Non-Member Event Policy

The meeting began with introductions, where Kevin identified himself as manager of the South Central Network and facilitated the session. The main discussion centred around whether u3a groups allow non-members to attend social events (eg Quiz evenings, Barn Dances) with Lynda raising this question and seeking input from other participants. Jackie shared that according to an insurance expert's advice, non-members should not be allowed at events due to coverage issues, though she acknowledged some uncertainty about the specific insurance implications and offered to clarify this further.

u3a Member Policy Discussion

Lynda raised concerns about people bringing non-members to u3a events more than once, questioning whether the current policy should be more lenient. Sue shared that her u3a successfully recruits new members through coffee mornings held in garden centres with public liability insurance, allowing prospective members to attend two meetings before joining. Sue's u3a has a small membership of 200 and requires visitors to sign in at monthly meetings where they are greeted by committee members.

Non-Member Event Attendance Policies

The group discussed policies around allowing non-members to attend u3a social events. They agreed that while visitors can attend once as a taster, regular attendance at social events like quiz evenings and barn dances requires membership. The discussion

highlighted insurance considerations, with members noting that non-members would need to join if they attend regular outings to maintain insurance coverage. The group also discussed how Christmas functions are typically restricted to members only, though attendance numbers have been manageable at around 100 out of 200 members for one u3a.

u3a Welfare Challenges Discussion

The meeting focused on welfare challenges across different u3as. Sue from Botley u3a discussed their struggle to proceed with welfare initiatives due to scheduling conflicts with another committee meeting, while Jackie explained that her Windsor u3a rebranded their welfare efforts as "Wellness, Well-being and Welfare" (WWW) team and decided against having a formal welfare officer. Catherine shared her u3a's approach to supporting new members through a VIP table service, and Lynn highlighted the challenge of recruiting volunteers to take on committee roles.

The group agreed to continue with the March SCN chairs meeting while considering reducing future meetings to once yearly due to declining attendance.