

## Meetings in Retirement Complexes and Care Homes

Care homes and other retirement accommodation sometimes offer a room for the use of a u3a group, often rent-free. What happens if some of the home's residents want to join the group? Requiring normal u3a membership feels unreasonable for people who won't be able to attend any other u3a meetings. But the u3a's insurance is invalidated if non-members are at a meeting (except as prospective members, who are normally allowed to try out a meeting or two before joining.)

It's not possible under u3a rules to have an arrangement with the retirement home that would apply to any residents who might come to the group. Instead, if this is an issue you face, your u3a can make a special membership category for people in this situation, probably with a much reduced annual membership fee. The committee needs to discuss and agree the arrangement, check that nothing in your u3a's constitution prevents this, then spell it out and minute the discussion. You might end up with a statement something like the following, editing the parts in italics as necessary:

A resident of *a retirement complex* where one or more of *Xtown's* u3a groups meets, and who attends some or all those meetings but no others of *Xtown* u3a, should become a member of the u3a known as a '*retirement complex* member'. The subscription for *retirement complex* members will be set at a lower level than that for other members, to be decided by the committee. (This safeguards the u3a's insurance for other attendees.)