



## Youth Work Options under COVID-19

26 August 2020

The charity is taking guidance from the Nation Youth Agency (NYA) with regard to the youth work it can provide and what steps are required as and when provision that has previously been offered can be recommenced. The NYA publish a COVID-19 Readiness Level along with a more detailed full guidance on what measure are needed. This level is currently set at Amber and allows for the following youth work to take place:

- Online and digital youth services
- Detached local youth activities, including pre-planned outdoor activities
- 1-2-1 indoor session with young people
- Indoor group session in bubbles of 15 plus multiple bubbles if COVID-19 secure

All of the above must have the following in place:

- Assessment that the risk to workers, young people and the community can be safely managed
- Ability to meet core government guidance
- Effective safeguarding arrangements
- All children and young people should be safeguarded
- Enhanced cleaning arrangements are in place
- Ability to comply with social distancing requirements which is underpinned by UK law
- Ability to ensure hygiene levels are maintained, including for frequent hand washing/cleansing with alcohol gel
- The risk to workers, young people and the community being safely managed
- Whether the most vulnerable in society can be effectively safeguarded

The trustees and staff have considered this information and combined with the knowledge they have of the young people the charity has worked with and the expertise within the charity, here is an update on the strands of youth work that have previously been offered.

### Youth Bus Sessions

Due to the limited space available in the youth buses it would not be possible to comply with social distancing requirements and so are not able to be offered.

### Building Based Youth Zones

Space and staffing levels in all of these venues would mean limiting attendance to just 15 young people who should be of the same age. Buildings shared with other users would require enhanced cleaning arrangements between different users. Social distancing guidance must be observed in all areas, including queue management, pinch point identification. Any equipment should be cleaned between uses by different individuals. No food or drink to be offered except when in line with

government guidance for high street cafes. Face masks must be worn in community centres. Contact information to be collected on all attendees.

Currently this is not considered practical for an informal youth club. However if you believe that your community building risk assessments and resulting guidelines and procedures make this possible, then get in touch.

#### Babysitting and Generation Game Courses

The same guidelines apply as in Building Based Youth Zones however because this is a more formal classroom style activity, then provided the venue has suitable COVID-19 procedures in place, these can be offered. Attendance would be limited to 15 young people. The Generation Game would not include practical experience due to restrictions on contact with vulnerable people. First Aid trainers have confirmed they can provide COVID-19 secure course.

These can be offered from September where there is a suitable venue.

#### Detached Youth Work Sessions

Requires all staff and young people to follow social distancing guidelines and restrictions on numbers of people meeting in a public space. Unable to promote sessions as would be encouraging gatherings in a public space.

These can continue to be offered.

#### Contact

If you have any questions or comments regarding this or wish to investigate further the possibility of any of these being carried out in your community then please get in touch with:

Alan Webb – Project Manager [admin@connectionsbusproject.org.uk](mailto:admin@connectionsbusproject.org.uk) or 07887 947748

*Please be aware that staff are still on a part-time furlough basis and will respond as soon as possible.*

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