

## MANCHESTER COVID-19 RESPONSE

### Youth and Play Sector Guidance – Update 1<sup>st</sup> December

The England-wide lockdown that was in place throughout November is set to end at midnight on 1<sup>st</sup> December and will be replaced with a Tier System. The National Youth Agency (NYA) have done a full review of their guidance to reflect the latest advice from national government, working closely with Public Health England, the Health and Safety Executive and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

There are some changes to the guidance relating to permitted activities with children and young people and these changes apply nationally, and apply equally to all Tiers. The key change in the guidance relates to the age of the young people engaging in provision.

If you are working with **over 18s**, the readiness level is now at **RED** which is **THE SAME** as the previous level. This means that open access universal face to face activity must stop. Some face to face activity is permitted and you should check the latest guidance provided by the NYA <https://nya.org.uk/guidance/>

If you are working with **under 18s**, the readiness level is now at **AMBER** which is a **CHANGE** to the previous level, and more activity is possible. Some face to face activity is permitted and you should check the latest guidance provided by the NYA <https://nya.org.uk/guidance/>

As with previous changes in lockdown restrictions and national updates, we are not issuing separate local guidance for youth and play providers, but are keen to support you to work within the national frameworks provided by NYA and other stakeholders (e.g. Play England) and for you to make decisions which work for you and your organisation.

This guidance is being reviewed regularly, at a local and national level. We are committed to making the case for maintaining youth provision as a critical service, ensuring that young people can safely access youth and play services. We know that it continues to be an uncertain time, Manchester City Council and Young Manchester are committed to working flexibly with you to ensure we can provide the best possible range of opportunities for children and young people.



## Updated Guidance

As above the primary guidance for the sector has been provided by NYA.

We would also strongly encourage you to use this guidance alongside other available information which is relevant to your specific setting and activities.

This may include but is not limited to:

- [Out of school](#)
- [Play](#)
- [Detached](#)
- [Multi-purpose community facilities](#)

NB. We have linked above to most recent guidance in these areas, which may not reflect restrictions during the current lockdown. Refreshed guidance is expected and we will update when available.



## **Your responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of individual organisations to make the decisions that are right for them, their staff and the children and young people they support. There is no requirement from Young Manchester or Manchester City Council for you to continue face to face work with children and young people.

If you are carrying out face to face activities; in line with the guidance, you should complete an action plan and risk assessment prior to any delivery, and ensure that your spaces and activities are COVID compliant with all aspects of the guidance (including numbers of young people, social distancing and managing hygiene).

You should also ensure that your planned activity meets your insurance company's requirement, as well as, any additional requirements set out by your funders.

We would strongly encourage you to review all of your organisation's policies and procedures to ensure that they are compliant with the latest guidance, and enable you to work as safely and effectively as possible.

## **Key worker status**

At this time there is no need for organisations to have key worker status to provide youth and play work.



## **Safeguarding of Children and Young People**

The safeguarding of the children and young people you work with remains, as always, of highest priority.

In all engagement with children and young people whether online or face-to-face, staff and volunteers should be aware of their responsibilities in this area.

Children and young people accessing services may be looking for support and safety, and accessing youth and play services may be a rare opportunity they have to talk to someone they trust. They may display concerning behaviour, or partially or fully disclose abuse or neglect. Individuals and organisations need to be able to respond appropriately to children and young people.

You should also ensure that your safeguarding policy has been recently reviewed and contains the most up to date contact details, including your named Designated Safeguarding Lead and details for the Manchester Contact Centre.

Local safeguarding advice and resources can be accessed [here](#).



## Further support and advice

If you need any further support or advice, please speak to your local partnership lead, or contact the Youth Strategy (MCC) team or Young Manchester team directly.

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