

## Woodcraft Folk Group Activities: Briefing for Group Leaders, January 2021



Woodcraft Folk  
Education for Social Change

YOUTH IS  
NOT WASTED  
ON THE YOUNG

This first briefing of 2021 replaces all previous guidance issued to Woodcraft Folk groups across the UK, and has been issued in response to changes to measures to control the spread of Covid-19 announced in Scotland and England on 4 January. Our approach has been informed by the guidance issued by the National Youth Agency, YouthLink Scotland and the Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services.

At the present time, Woodcraft Folk groups across the UK should offer **online or remote programme activities only**. It is not possible to say at the moment when restrictions will ease again, and we advise all groups to plan for this to be the case at least until the February half term.

### Online Programme Offer

Groups are encouraged to deliver online or remote programme activities in whatever format is most appropriate for their young members, until such time as restrictions on face-to-face youth work activities are eased. During this time, Woodcraft Folk staff and volunteers will continue to offer weekly challenges and live sessions via the [#DreamBigAtHome](https://www.dreambigathome.org.uk) site. If you or your group could offer a live session, please contact [lauren.karstadt@woodcraft.org.uk](mailto:lauren.karstadt@woodcraft.org.uk) to discuss scheduling a slot. There are a growing number of activities to inspire your own programme, as well as activities that

### England

Following the announcement of a new national 'lockdown' in England, youthwork is now at the National Youth Agency (NYA) 'Red' Readiness Level. This means that only 1-2-1 sessions, targeted support for high-need young people, and certain detached activities can be run face to face (further details are available in the [NYA's Red Readiness Fact Sheet](#)). This means that all Woodcraft Folk's face-to-face activity, both indoor and outdoor, must be suspended at this time.

Woodcraft Folk groups in England should plan to deliver **online or remote programme activities only** for the time being. At the current time it is not expected that the current 'stay at home' instruction will change until after the February half term.

### Scotland

The previous system of Local Protection Levels has been suspended for mainland Scotland, and a temporary lockdown is now in place. This will be reviewed at the end of January.

Woodcraft Folk groups in Scotland should plan to deliver **online or remote programme activities only** for now. Government briefings have suggested that there may be some limited provision for organised activities for the youngest children to take place outside, but guidance for the youth sector has not yet been issued by YouthLink Scotland. A further update will be provided to groups in Scotland when this is available.

For all Woodcraft Folk groups, projects & centres

## **Wales**

The Welsh Government has implemented Alert Level 4 across Wales. This means that household mixing indoors or outdoors is not allowed, with very limited exceptions. Gwerin y Coed groups should therefore plan to deliver **online or remote programme activities only** at present.

Further details on the restrictions at Alert Level 4 are available on the [Welsh Government website](#), and any specific advice for the youth work sector will be available from the Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services, via their [website](#) and their [Facebook page](#).

## **Outdoor Centres and Overnight Stays**

Woodcraft Folk's outdoor centres and campsites remain closed to all visitors at this time. Woodcraft Folk groups across the UK are not permitted to run any camps or residential activities during the current restrictions.

## **Supporting Young Members**

Woodcraft Folk is mindful of the effect of the continued restrictions on young people's mental health and wellbeing. While groups cannot meet face-to-face, online programme activities will help young members sustain the relationships they have with others in their Woodcraft Folk group. However, if you are concerned about any of the young people in the group(s) you work with, please contact Woodcraft Folk's safeguarding team by emailing [safeguarding@woodcraft.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@woodcraft.org.uk) so we can discuss how we can best meet their support needs.

## **Owen Sedgwick-Jell**

Head of Membership & Programmes

[owen@woodcraft.org.uk](mailto:owen@woodcraft.org.uk)

5 January 2021