

Woodcraft Folk Group Activities: Briefing for Group Leaders, November 2020



Woodcraft Folk
Education for Social Change



This briefing replaces the “Roadmap To Reopening” document previously issued to Woodcraft Folk groups across the UK, and has been issued in the light of recent changes in the nations of the UK:

- New **National Restrictions** introduced in England with effect from 5 November
- The introduction of a system of **Local Protection Levels** in Scotland
- A **‘Firebreak Lockdown’** in Wales, which comes to an end on 9 November

Woodcraft Folk’s approach, like that of all youth work organisations, continues to be steered by the guidance issued by the National Youth Agency, YouthLink Scotland and the Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services.

England

Youth work in England 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** until the current National Restrictions are lifted (not before 2 December). After this date a system of tiered regional restrictions will again apply in England.

Scotland

Scotland’s new system of Local Protection Levels means that restrictions on activity vary from area to area, from Level 0 to Level 4. As of 5 November, all of Scotland’s Woodcraft Folk groups are based in areas at Level 3, the second highest of the five levels in the system (an [up-to-date listing of local levels](#) is available on the gov.scot website).

While some face-to-face youth work is still permitted under the restrictions, guidance issued by YouthLink Scotland is that this is part of a ‘blended offer’ (i.e. face-to-face and remote participation) and carefully targeted towards young people who need it most. It has therefore been determined that for Woodcraft Folk groups in Scotland:

- At level 4, groups should offer **online or remote programme activities only**.
- At level 3, groups may offer **outdoor activities, online or remote activities**, or a mix of these approaches. Any face-to-face sessions must be restricted to a maximum of 30 participants (including adults and children)
- At level 2 or below, groups may run **indoor, outdoor, online or remote activities**, or a mix of these approaches.

Any face-to-face sessions, whether indoors or outdoors, can be delivered **only** if the ‘Expectations Before Delivery’ laid out in YouthLink Scotland’s [Guiding Framework](#) document can be met, i.e.:

For all Woodcraft Folk groups, projects & centres

- That the planned session is consistent with Scottish Government scientific and medical advice
- That Scottish Government and Public Health Scotland guidance can be complied with
- That a comprehensive risk assessment has been completed
- That measures for infection prevention and control are in place, including (as necessary)
 - Adequate facilities, equipment and procedures for personal hygiene
 - Measures are in place to comply with physical distancing requirements
 - Ability to adhere to the Scottish Government Test and Protect COVID-19 guidance
 - Specific measures to protect those who are at higher risk from COVID-19
- That clear communications are in place to ensure volunteers, young people and parents understand
- measures in place to manage risk
- That appropriate insurance cover (including venues if appropriate)
- That the above are monitored and reviewed regularly

It is highly recommended that any leaders planning to deliver indoor or outdoor sessions read the Guiding Framework document before offering face-to-face session to ensure that they fully understand their responsibilities to young people and to other volunteers.

Wales

The 'Firebreak' restrictions currently in force mean that no face-to-face activity is permitted for Gwerin y Coed groups, so groups in Wales should currently be offering **online or remote programme activities only**.

It is expected that groups will be able to meet again, with appropriate precautions in place, with effect from 9 November. Full details are not yet available, but the First Minister's statement on 2 November indicated that "Community centres will be available for small groups to meet safely indoors in the winter months". Guidance will be issued directly to group contacts in Gwerin y Coed when the full regulations have been made available and sector-level guidance produced by the Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services.

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 to discuss scheduling a slot. To inspire your own programme, the site also contains a wide range of activities that are suitable for can be delivered remotely, and previous live sessions that can be watched back at your leisure.

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

For all Woodcraft Folk groups, projects & centres

Although schools remain open in England and Scotland, and will reopen in Wales on 9 November, 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 so we can discuss how we can best meet their support needs.

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