



Woodcraft Folk Group Activities: Briefing for Group Leaders, April 2021

Overview

This briefing summarises the current position with regard to the expected gradual lifting of restrictions in place to control the transmission of Covid-19, and the implications of these for the planning of future Woodcraft Folk group and residential activities.

In **England** the government has announced a stepped approach to the easing of restrictions. While potential dates have been widely communicated in respect of each of these steps, it is vital to remember that these are the *earliest* dates at which the steps will be implemented, and progression to the next step will always be dependent on certain data-driven thresholds being reached. There is currently no suggestion that there will be a return to regional tiers of regulation.

In **Scotland** the government has also set out steps to reduce the lockdown restrictions, with progressive easing based on **protection levels**. All areas of the country moved to level 3 with effect from 26 April. Outline timetables have been announced for progression to levels 2 and 1, but again these are subject to review based on national and local infection rates.

In **Wales**, the **stay local** restrictions were lifted from 27 March, and organised outdoor activities for children and young people are now permitted. Timescales for further lifting of restrictions have not been announced at the time of writing.

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

For the remainder of the academic year, Woodcraft Folk expects to continue to provide a 'blended offer' of programme activities to our young members, including:

- Remote programme activities, supported by #DreamBigAtHome
- Online programme activities, locally and nationally
- Where permitted, and subject to maximum numbers, socially distanced outdoor activities
- Where permitted, and subject to maximum numbers, socially distanced indoor activities
- If permitted, carefully planned and managed camping or residential opportunities (no earlier than summer 2021)

No arrangements should be made for international exchange visits as part of Woodcraft Folk activity without the express permission of the [Chief Executive](#).

#DreamBigAtHome

Online provision via dreambigathome.uk will continue, with a mix of weekly challenges and live programme sessions. The activity pages contain a wide range of activities that are searchable by theme and by suitability for online, outdoor or socially-distanced delivery.

Supporting Young Members

As always, 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.

Resuming Face-to-Face Provision

As restrictions ease, group leaders need to consider not just what is permitted by the regulations, but balance carefully the benefits of resuming activities against the increased risks of transmission they will give rise to. This may be affected by particular circumstances, e.g. the vulnerability of young people or volunteers, leading different groups to come to different conclusions about the appropriate time to resume face-to-face provision.

So that Woodcraft Folk can provide appropriate support to groups and ensure that adequate insurance cover is in place, group leaders/co-ordinators *must* complete the [Reopening Checklist](#) before resuming any face-to-face provision. This will involve confirming that your group has registered for 2021, and sharing your risk assessment for the sessions that you intend to deliver.

More detailed guidance relating to provision in England, Scotland and Wales is outlined in specific briefing notes for each nation. If you require further support or advice please contact membership@woodcraft.org.uk.

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