



Woodcraft Folk Group Activities: Briefing for Groups in Scotland, July 2021

Overview

The Scottish Government has placed all areas of the country at **Level 0** with effect from 19 July, prompting further relaxation of the numerical limits and other precautions applying to youth work activities.

Detailed guidance to support the delivery of youth work activities in Scotland can be found in the [Guiding Framework document](#) published by YouthLink Scotland. Further advice can be found in the government's [guidance for the Community Learning & Development sector](#), on which YouthLink's document is based.

Despite the lifting of restrictions, infection rates remain high in many areas, and young people cannot yet access vaccinations. Even where activities are permitted within the guidance, groups are encouraged to undertake only those that they feel confident and comfortable delivering, with due regard to local conditions.

The continued requirement for individuals to isolate if they are identified as a 'close contact' of a confirmed case of the Covid-19 virus means that groups should still take steps to minimise disruption to families, for example by working in smaller, consistent groups.

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.

Expectations Before Delivery

Before delivering face-to-face activities with your group you should ensure that you are familiar with the latest version of YouthLink Scotland's [Guiding Framework](#), and that you are adhering to the government's [FACTS guidance](#).

Group leaders need to ensure that they can meet the **Expectations Before Delivery** outlined in the Guiding Framework, which include:

- Confirming delivery plans are compatible with current government public health guidance, scientific and medical advice
- An up-to-date risk assessment for your activity
- Appropriate infection control, cleaning and hygiene procedures
- Face coverings worn when required by law (indoors for those aged 12 or above)
- Physical distancing is observed

- Procedures to adhere to 'Test and Protect' are in place
- Measures to protect those at higher risk from Covid-19
- Clear communication with all participants, volunteers, parents/carers

Sessional Activities

Group sessions and activity days can take place in indoor or outdoor venues. Young people participating in the activities can be over 18, under 18 or a mixture of both, meaning that DFs can now join group activities without restriction.

Indoors

Physical distancing in indoor venues of at least 1 metre is required between people from different households. Face coverings must also be worn indoors by all aged 12 or over, unless exempt on medical grounds.

Maximum numbers for indoor venues are determined by how many people can safely be accommodated in the available space, given the need for physical distancing to be observed.

Outdoors

Physical distancing and face coverings are not required when delivering activities in outdoor spaces. Maximum numbers should be determined by the available space, but at Level 0 are subject to an absolute limit of 500 people.

Travel

Face coverings are to be worn on public transport and on any dedicated 'youth work transport' (e.g. a community transport minibus) by everyone aged 5 or over. They are also advised if lifts are being shared informally between members of different households.

There are no restrictions on travel to England or Wales for youth work activities, though you should be aware that different requirements and restrictions will apply.

No international travel should be planned or undertaken in connection with any Woodcraft Folk activity without the express written permission of the Chief Executive.

Camping & Residential Activities

Camps and indoor residential activities are also permitted, subject to the same limitations as outlined above. Additionally, tents, dormitories or bedrooms must be shared between a maximum of eight young people, from a maximum of four different households. This means that the overall capacity of many bunkhouses and hostels will remain restricted for the time being. The restrictions that applied at Level 2 requiring single use of bathroom facilities no longer apply.

Lateral flow device (LFD) testing has not been made a requirement for youth work residential activities in Scotland (as it has in England). However, LFD testing is recommended prior to residential activities for volunteers and young people aged 11 and over, to mitigate the risk of infection during the trip. Families and individuals can obtain LFD kits free of charge through community pharmacies.

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