

Supporting safe delivery of youth work in school and community buildings

5 October 2020

Scottish Government has recognised that youth work plays an important role in education recovery. [COVID-19 Education recovery and youth work](#) outlined some of the ways youth work providers could work with schools to help mitigate the impact of the pandemic on children and young people's health and wellbeing, learning and development.

Youth work is considered to be an educational activity and is therefore subject to specific guidance to support safe delivery within schools, community centres, buildings and facilities, in line with the permitted purposes allowed in the Scottish Government Route Map.

From 31 August, the youth work sector has been able to begin a gradual, phased return to face-to-face youth work indoors. Specific [youth work guidance](#) was developed by YouthLink Scotland, Scottish Government and Public Health Scotland. This ensures youth work delivery complies with Scottish Government and Public Health Scotland guidance and that robust measures are in place to ensure safeguard the health and wellbeing of all those involved in the delivery of youth work. This guidance is informed by Scottish Government advice, including sector specific guidance for the wider Community Learning and Development (CLD) sector.

At all times, the youth work sector's priority is to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our children, young people and practitioners and to minimise the spread of COVID-19. As such, youth work partners have planned and implemented robust safeguarding measures to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission and infection across community, outdoor and school settings.

What public health measures can you expect from youth work?

Youth work providers will have:

- Carried out comprehensive risk assessment.
- Measures in place for infection prevention and control, including:
 - Enhanced cleaning arrangements.
 - 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.
- Clear communication processes in place - to ensure staff, volunteers, service users and parents understand the measures in place to manage risk.
- Appropriate insurance cover.
- Processes to regularly monitor and review risk assessment and safeguarding measures.

When delivering in schools and other settings youth work organisations will work to the risk assessment and public health measures relevant to the local context, in addition to

undertaking their own risk assessment for the activity. Schools and other venues for delivery should share their risk assessment with youth work providers.

Youth workers may also be limiting the number of face-to-face interactions each day and working with consistent 'bubbles' of children/young people, to minimise the risk of infection and transmission.

Youth work organisations are supporting their practitioners to adapt to the challenges of delivery during the pandemic, including providing access to relevant health and safety training.