



## COVID-19: Strategic Intention – Children and Young People

27<sup>th</sup> August 2020

### Introduction

This guidance is intended to support and safely apply the intentions set out in the Government 3 step recovery strategy.

The strategy sets out three clear phases to recovery:

- Phase 1 – Lockdown
- Phase 2 – Smarter Controls
- Phase 3 – Reliable Treatment

This guidance is intended to directly support Phase 2 – Smarter Controls which includes measures to reduce the restrictions but with strict conditions on their implementation. As the Government amends this guidance, these strategic intentions and supporting documentation will also be revised.

### Getting back to face-to-face delivery

This document provides specific guidance for working with Children and Young People and supports the guidance already provided in Strategic Intention-COVID 19 Prevention

Its purpose is to ensure that the resumption of face to face delivery of Children and Young Persons (CYP) activities protect the safety of both staff and the public and does so in accordance with current government guidance and use of safe and suitable risk assessments.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> of September has been identified as the date from which to restart Youth Engagement and Intervention so long as COVID19 Security is assured in the venues in which the activities are delivered.

It cannot be underestimated how much the FRS can make a positive contribution to COVID 19 recovery by providing much needed youth provision as we move forward.

Activities may need modifying to ensure compliance. Consideration will also need to be given regarding numbers of CYP attending at any time.

The National Youth Agency have issued guidance that takes you through the steps to consider for each stage of the pandemic, this guidance applies to England only. The Devolved Nations should have regard to their own guidance.

It is important that the right elements are in place before activities resume and FRS must consider guidance in relation to their local circumstances and consider the measures that need to be carried out. Across the UK including in our devolved governments, there may be slight differences in the lifting of restrictions and service delivery may even differ within FRS based on local circumstances and available resources.

### **Blended delivery**

There may be situations where face to face delivery is not possible or groups may need to be made smaller and attendance staggered. When this occurs Blended delivery should be considered to ensure the engagement or Intervention has maximum impact. There are a number of toolkits available to support this including the Fire Cadets videoconferencing toolkit, COVID 19 return to Fire Cadets. The toolkits are all available across the NFCC workplace groups.

### **Essential considerations**

The following points need to be considered when preparing for a return to face to face delivery

- Assessment & Action Plan that the risk to workers, young people and the community can be safely managed
- Ability to meet core government guidance
- Effective safeguarding arrangements
- Enhanced cleaning arrangements are in place
- Ability to comply with social distancing requirements which is underpinned by UK law
- Ability to ensure hygiene levels are maintained, including for frequent hand washing/cleansing with alcohol gel
- The risk to workers, young people and the community being safely managed
- Whether the most vulnerable in society can be effectively safeguarded

### **The use of Bubbles**

Please consider the following when re-establishing delivery to CYP. Please note the definition of Bubble for youth engagement differs from the that used within a school environment.

- 15 young people + leader/workers.
- Upon arrival/departure, participants should wash their hands or use hand sanitiser.
- Members of each bubble should adhere to the current social distancing requirements to be maintained during all activities.
- Should any member of a bubble become unwell, all members of the bubble should contact NHS Test and Trace.
- Organisers should be aware of attendees who are clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable.
- Bubbles should not join with other bubbles.
- Activities should take place outdoors as often as possible
- Individuals should remain in the bubble they are allocated for that day

- Different bubbles should use different doors, or arrival and departure times.
- Young people to arrive only with members of their bubble and avoid mingling before and after sessions.
- Shared spaces such as sports halls, kitchens, etc. must be deep cleaned between use if different bubbles are to use them on the same day.
- Spaces should not be used at the same time by more than one bubble.
- Enhanced regular cleaning of commonly used surfaces, such as equipment and door handles, should be ensured.
- It is not necessary for each bubble to use separate toilets; however, efforts should be made to limit the numbers of users at a given time. Use of different toilets for each bubble is ideal.

### Readiness Level

The following table from the NYA guidance suggests the level of activity that can be undertaken in accordance with the current risk level. On entering the NYA website, the current level is displayed. At the time of writing the level is Yellow.

<b>RED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online and digital youth services</li> <li>• Detached/outdoor local youth services</li> <li>• 1-2-1 sessions with high-need young people (indoors)</li> </ul>
<b>AMBER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online and digital youth services</li> <li>• Detached/outdoor local youth services (consistent with social distancing guidelines)</li> <li>• 1-2-1 sessions</li> <li>• Small group sessions delivered indoors (consistent with social distancing guidelines)</li> </ul>
<b>YELLOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online and digital youth services</li> <li>• Detached/outdoor local youth services (consistent with social distancing guidelines)</li> <li>• 1-2-1 sessions with high-need young people</li> <li>• Small group sessions delivered indoors (consistent with social distancing guidelines)</li> <li>• Camping overnight (see section 8.0)</li> </ul>
<b>GREEN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All services open as per normal yearly operations</li> <li>• Overnight trips and visits</li> <li>• International travel allowed within Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice</li> </ul>