Delivering Arts and Cultural Activities in Out of School Settings

Summer 2020 (Updated 3/8/20)

During these most curious and confusing of times, we are committed to making the case for maintaining arts and cultural activity as a critical service during any lockdown measures. Keeping children, young people and the adults who support them, safe must be the main priority.

In the absence of specific guidance for our sector, Curious Minds is advising cultural organisations and creative practitioners to refer to government guidelines for Out of School Settings and to work within the national framework provided by the National Youth Agency (NYA). The Cultural Learning Alliance (CLA) have also pulled together a range of advice and guidance for the sector. Ultimately you need to make decisions which work for you, your organisation and the families you serve.

Updated guidance relating to local lockdowns

In line with recent government changes to local restrictions in parts of the North West of England, the NYA and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) have reviewed the readiness level for the affected areas.

As of 3 August 2020, the readiness level for the North West remains at AMBER which is NO CHANGE from the previous level. This means that planned activity can go ahead, keeping in mind the relevant guidance provided by the NYA.

The NYAs latest guidance relating to the Amber status is available here. This guidance is being reviewed weekly at local and national level.

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the NYA's 'Managing youth sector activities and spaces during COVID-19' document and their 'Readiness Toolkit'.

Government information relating to local lockdowns in the North West of England can be found here.

We would also strongly encourage you to use this guidance alongside other available information which is relevant to your specific setting and activities. This may include:

- Out of School Settings
- Guidance for Parents & Carers
- Play
- Multi-purpose community facilities
- DCMS Performing Arts Guidance

- Grass Roots Sport and Gym/Leisure Facilities

Your responsibilities as a provider of out of school arts and cultural learning activity:

In line with the NYA guidance, you should complete an action plan and risk assessment prior to any delivery and ensure that your spaces and activities are compliant with all aspects of the guidance (including numbers of young people, social distancing and managing hygiene).

You should also ensure that your planned activity meets your insurance company's requirement, and also any additional requirements set out by your funders.

We would also strongly encourage you to review all of your organisations policies and procedures to ensure that they are compliant with the latest guidance and that they enable you to work as safely and effectively as possible.

Key worker status

In light of the changes to Government & NYA guidance, there is now no need for organisations to have key worker status to provide youth and play work. This remains the case following the latest guidance on local lockdowns.

Safeguarding of Children and Young People

The safeguarding of the children and young people you work with remains, as always, of highest priority. As the sector begins face-to-face engagement with children and young people after lockdown, staff and volunteers should be aware of their responsibilities in this area.

A child attending your activity may be looking for support, safety and somebody to talk to, and it may be the first opportunity they have had to do so in a number of months. They may display concerning behaviour, or partially or fully disclose abuse or neglect. Individuals and organisations need to be able to respond appropriately to children and young people.

You should also ensure that your safeguarding policy has been reviewed and contains the most up to date contact details, including your named Designated Safeguarding Lead and details for your local council's safeguarding team.