



**MANCHESTER**  
CITY COUNCIL



**Creative  
Engagement**  
Partnership for Young People

Creative and collaborative solutions to backing  
youth and play during and after COVID-19

## **MANCHESTER COVID-19 RESPONSE – LOCAL LOCKDOWN**

### **Youth and Play Sector Guidance – Update, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020**

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

The readiness level will remain 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.

As with previous changes in lockdown restrictions, we are not issuing separate local guidance for youth and play providers, but are keen to support you to work within the national frameworks provided by NYA and other stakeholders (e.g. Play England) and for you to make decisions which work for you and your organisation.

This guidance is being reviewed weekly, at a local and national level. We are committed to making the case for maintaining youth provision as a critical service during any lockdown measures, and ensuring as many young people as possible can access youth and play services.

We know that it continues to be an uncertain time, and that the recent lockdown came with little warning. Manchester City Council and Young Manchester are committed to working flexibly with you to ensure we can provide the best possible range of opportunities for children and young people over the summer within the framework provided by national government and the NYA.



## Updated guidance relating to local lockdowns

The readiness level for Manchester remains at AMBER.

A range of relevant guidance has been provided to support the delivery of youth and play provision.

The primary guidance for the sector has been provided by NYA - see their latest guidance [HERE](#) relating to the Amber status.

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'.

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 (see hyperlinks):

- [Out of school](#)
- [Play](#)
- [Detached](#)
- [Multi-purpose community facilities](#)



## **Your responsibilities**

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 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.

Children and young people accessing services may be looking for support and safety, and accessing face-to-face services 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 the Manchester contact centre.

Local safeguarding advice and resources can be accessed [here](#).



## Further support and advice

If you need any further support or advice, please speak to your local partnership lead, or contact the Youth Strategy (MCC) team or Young Manchester team directly.

Ruth Denton (MCC Youth Strategy) - [r.denton@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:r.denton@manchester.gov.uk)

Imogen Gregg-Auriac (Young Manchester) - [i.gregg-auriac@youngmanchester.org](mailto:i.gregg-auriac@youngmanchester.org)

