

# UPDATED GUIDANCE BRIEFING FOR DETACHED AND OUTREACH YOUTH WORK - 24/03/2020

This narrative briefing intends to supersede all previous guidance issued related to detached youth work practice during the Covid-19 Pandemic. We recognise that this is a fluid situation that is evolving rapidly, and we will update this whenever it is required.

Youth workers will want to support our most vulnerable young people during the COVID-19 crisis. Due to the latest Government Guidance of compulsory social distancing, conducting youth work must only take place with strict approval of local authorities/police. We know youth workers are currently being asked by social care teams and policing teams to play an active role in supporting co-ordinated local responses. Therefore, we are not advising an outright ban on youth work taking place, but the following strict guidance MUST be followed.

More guidance will be developed as we receive updates and information from central government and national colleagues. #

To stay up-to-date keep checking the <https://youthworksupport.co.uk/> website.

We have worked closely with the Youth Work Expert Group, in particular The Federation of Detached Youth Work to develop this guidance note. We are stronger together.

## JOINED UP THINKING AND CONNECTIONS:

Before considering undertaking any street-based youth work you MUST ensure that you have engaged with either the local police, local COVID-19 Hub (Local Authority) and/or Social Care teams to check you have the approval as a 'key worker'.

This will ensure you have the local intelligence needed to keep you, colleagues and young people safe.

If you don't have 'keyworker' status, you must NOT conduct youth work.

Follow guidance offered by your local Hub, safeguarding team and police. Clearer national specific guidance for youth workers is being sought from government departments.

## SAFE WORKING PRACTICES:

Ensure you conduct a risk assessment and use this to inform an ongoing dynamic risk assessment in the moment. If it is not safe to continue – withdraw.

You must ensure that you have the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment required, plus the usual detached equipment.

Your health matters: If you have a health vulnerability or caring responsibility you should not be doing detached work unless discussed with a medical or occupational health professional.

Ensure you always have the right information to contact relevant services to safeguard young people with you.

## MESSAGE TO YOUNG PEOPLE:

Why are you doing this work? You should only be going out with a clear and purposeful agenda, including to address vulnerable young people's needs.

Youth workers are educators, so ensure you are educating young people about the latest national social distancing requirements and how they should respond.

Messaging to young people should be clear – **go home** if it is safe to. If it isn't, you should capture this information, and ensure that you provide support beyond the street through referring on and linking into local safeguarding services.

Provide information to young people on ways to engage from inside their homes – digital technologies, phones.

## KNOWLEDGE AND TRAINING:

Do you have a clear scope for the work you are undertaking - at this time the work should focus on minimising and assessing risk.

Are you equipped to do detached work?

Have you received appropriate training and guidance from colleagues with knowledge and experience?

If you do not have the knowledge and skills to do this work THEN YOU SHOULD NOT, and you should flag this with your manager.

We must maintain professional standards to protect ourselves and young people.