

Speaking with parents, carers and young people.

**Guidance for Group Scout Leaders
and Section Leaders**

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Welcome

If you're in doubt about any of these checks please seek the advice of a professional. Guidance is also available [here](#)

Background

We need to consider how we effectively communicate with parents/carers and young people at every stage of our return to face-to-face Scouting. We'll need to update our members on new safety measures and logistics, seek consent to return to face-to-face Scouts, as well as introducing young people to the new blended programme.

Exactly how this looks for groups will vary, depending on local circumstances, risk assessments, relevant government guidance and the restarting framework.

When the National Youth Agency's level of permitted activity changes groups may change how they are delivering their programme. Whether restrictions are being removed or re-instated, we'll need to keep both parents and young people informed.

Engaging with parents, carers and young people should reflect our restarting principles:

- Our priority is to keep young people and adult volunteers safe
- A National Framework will help volunteers locally to focus on delivering high quality programme activities to meet the needs of their young people.
- We actively consider inclusion and accessibility for all
- Returning is voluntary and needs to be with consent of leaders, parents and young people
- Our approach will be solutions focussed and in line with government guidance and health & safety legislation.

Things to consider

In most instances, communications should be prepared and distributed by GSLs and the Section Leadership teams. For District provisions, this would be done by Section Leadership teams working with the relevant Commissioner.

Engaging with parents and young people about a return to face-to-face meetings and activities should be done before the first activities begin. Groups should allow enough time for addressing questions and concerns, and engage fully with members before returning face-to-face. It will also be necessary to continue to inform everyone about changes and updated arrangements as we move between different stages of permitted activity.

Consent

Groups will need to get consent from parents and carers before young people first return to face-to-face activities, as well as when moving to later stages of the restarting framework. This is to clarify that they have read and understood the information, and agree to their young person participating.

Different methods will be chosen by Groups to gather this information (email replies, PDF forms, online messaging, OSM features, e-signatures etc.). Whichever method is chosen, it's important that the consent is explicit and documented. This is in case it needs to be referred back to in the future.

Parents or carers of Explorer Scout Young Leaders will also need to provide consent before they resume face to face volunteering with Sections. This needs to be separate to any consent which is given for them to resume face to face activities with their Explorer Unit.

Speaking with parents and carers

Information to parents and carers is likely to be a written update and could be distributed by groups in an email or letter. The information should be available in a format accessible to all parents and carers. They will need to be made aware of the new measures you're putting in place to keep everyone safe, as well as information about how sessions will be run moving forward.

Speaking with young people

Young people also need to be informed about what they need to do differently when they start attending face-to-face activities. The information should be delivered in an age-appropriate, accessible and engaging format, encouraging young people to share their own views, ideas and questions.

Groups might consider discussing the changes in advance with young people as part of an online Scouting session, delivered through Zoom or similar tool. Young people need to understand how they should behave during face-to-face sessions. Groups may decide to create an updated code of conduct with their young people to help promote positive behaviour for safe face-to-face sessions.

Speaking with Young Leaders

Explorer Scout Young leaders (ESYLs) also need to be communicated with while Groups are preparing to restart. They should be involved in the planning process, and as with other volunteers and young people, they should have an opportunity to voice their views. Consent should also be given by the Young Leader's parent or carer before they return to face to face activities.

Risks and mitigating actions

Level	Permitted activity	Key communications	Who is responsible?
Red	No face-to-face Scouting activity allowed. Scouting can be virtual (online/video/phone). Scouting at home/with family e.g. using The Great Indoors resource encouraged.	Information relevant to online/at-home programme	Section Leadership teams
Amber	Where permitted by, and following, government guidance Scouting activities in outdoor spaces can resume. No residential activities.	Provide information about new safety, logistics and programme arrangements.	GSL/DESC/Section Leadership Teams
		Make sure everyone is aware that some who are vulnerable/shielding are unable to return, and outline how they can continue to be involved.	GSL/DESC/Section Leadership teams
		Find out who is and is not returning, and gather any required consent.	GSL/DESC/Section Leadership Teams
Yellow	Outdoors Scouting can be expanded, and indoor Scouting can resume subject to following government guidance	Provide information about updates to safety, logistics and programme arrangements.	GSL/DESC/Section Leadership Teams
Green	Following government guidance, all Scouting activities	Inform volunteers, parents and young people of restrictions which no longer need to be followed.	GSL/DESC/Section Leadership teams
		Be ready to communicate the re-	GSL/DESC/Section

	may resume. Residential experiences and camps can take place.	introduction of any restrictions, if the decision is taken to return to an earlier stage.	Leadership teams
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