



Coronavirus Policy

updated 01 October 2020



Kennington Youth Club is committed to upholding excellent levels of health and safety in order to safeguard the health and wellbeing of all our adults, young people, and visitors, and providing activities in a safe environment without risk as far as is reasonably practicable.

The overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy rests with the Management Committee, and the Chair, Jennifer Forder, is Health and Safety Representative.

Whilst Kennington Youth Club already holds a comprehensive Health and Safety policy, it has been deemed necessary to implement a separate policy specifically for the recent outbreak of Coronavirus, COVID-19.

Information about COVID-19

As of 11th March 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) classified Coronavirus COVID-19 as a global pandemic. COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect the lungs and airways. As COVID-19 was a new illness, health professionals did not know exactly how it was spread from person to person. At the time of updating the policy, science points to transmission between persons via water droplets from coughing/sneezing, and touching unclean surfaces that have previously been contaminated.

Advice

The advice from the WHO at the time of updating this policy was:-

- Stay at home and work from home as much as possible
- Limit contact with other people
- Keep your distance from other people not in your household (2 metres apart where possible and where this is not possible, remain a minimum of 1 metre with protection)
- Self-isolate for seven days if you have any of the following conditions:
 - New continuous cough
 - High temperature
- Do not attend the GP surgery or hospital if you present with the above conditions unless it persists for more than seven days.

As of 4th July 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson eased full lockdown restrictions. Some adults were able to return to the workplace, schools were reopening in 'bubbles', and pubs and other social venues began to reopen pending individual risk assessments. From July 27th, indoor sports were able to take place. On this date, the government introduced mandatory wearing of masks in shops and similar indoor venues.

Since this point up until this policy review, various government amendments have been made. Youth Work has now been classed as an essential service due to the impact Covid-19 has had on young people's wellbeing and the key work we undertake supporting in this area. As such, Youth Work's guidance around Covid is marginally different to general government guidelines.



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Preventing the spread

The WHO continues to promote the following:-

- wash hands with soap and water often and for 20 seconds.
- always wash your hands when you get home or into work.
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.
- DO NOT touch eyes, nose, or mouth if your hands are not clean.

The government's current message is to 'wash hand, wear a mask, make space.'

Action by Kennington Youth Club

Kennington Youth Club was proactive in promoting good hand-washing techniques to all of its members. As the threat of the virus spreading rose, the club ceased all youth club activities on 14th March 2020. This was in part due to the inability to provide higher-level cleaning on a regular basis, added to the prospect of not being able to fulfil necessary adult to child ratios, as well as the risk to current leaders and linked family members of all persons attending.

The Premises

Kennington Youth Club erected relevant government posters on 14th March 2020 and has updated these since in line with government guidance. As of 1st August, the hall was reopened to hall hirers with the expectation that they would comply with the maximum occupancy and safety guidelines laid down by the committee. This can be found in a separate document specifically for them entitled 'Covid-19 Hall Hire Risk Assessment and Policy'.

Direct delivery youth work resumed in the centre in mid-August. At this point, outreach youth work ceased. This was in part due to adult availability.

Continuing Provision

Since 1st September, the club has continued to make provision for young people in the form of direct delivery centre based youth work. This has been in line with National Youth Agency guidelines and has required full risk assessments and action plans to be drawn up.

Online Safeguarding

A 'Wellbeing Hotline' service was also set up allowing members to contact leaders for a wellbeing 'chat' if needed. Designated Safeguarding Leads, Roy Peach and Vickie Ward confirmed the details. It was agreed that parents would have to email via the wellbeing email address and from here a Zoom conference call or telephone call could be set up. Whichever adult held the call (expected to be Roy Peach, Youth Leader) would expect the parent to be present prior to the call and after the call, and to remain within the vicinity of the young person (i.e.: not leave the house) for reasons of safety. The club adult that handled the call would report to another DSL afterwards. As of 1st September, it has received little traffic but remains in place in these uncertain times.



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Forward Planning

The Chair of the committee and the Youth Leader have been closely following government and National Youth Agency guidance respectively and liaising regularly. The government proposed on Sunday 10th May that primary schools would reopen from Monday 1st June. Previously Kennington Youth Club agreed to fall in line with the schools, however, following a presentation by the Youth Leader on 21st May, it was evident that the youth club is not in a position to reopen in its previous format due to a variety of factors. Following yet further changes at government level, direct delivery centre based youth work resumed in mid-August. The club currently offers two 'bubbles' running consecutively and has received funding to increase provision with targeted work.

Hall users

As restrictions are easing the committee agreed in principle at the AGM on Tuesday 14th July that the club could reopen to hall hirers once all necessary risks had been assessed. The Youth Leader and Chair met on Thursday 16th July to discuss this further and assess the premises. The hall reopened on 1st August.

Risk Assessment

The risk assessment for the premises was updated to include Coronavirus at the start of the pandemic and has been revised again as part of each policy review.

Signed on behalf of the Management Committee:

Name..... Chairperson

Signature.....

Date.....

Name..... Youth Leader

Signature.....

Date.....

Document version history			Author: Roy Peach, Youth Leader
Version	Date	Amendments	By whom
2	11/05/2020	Full policy update taking into account government advice and that from the National Youth Agency. Provided further detail following committee meeting 21.05.2020	Roy Peach, Youth Leader RP, Youth Leader
3	17/07/2020	Full policy update taking into account government advice and that from the National Youth Agency. Further information provided on provision offered for young people, forward planning, and new section added re hall hirers.	RP, Youth Leader
4	01/10/2020	Full policy update taking into account government advice and that from the National Youth Agency. Further information provided on provision offered, and forward planning.	RP, Youth Leader