

9<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## **Out of School Provision for Children and Young People**

During this four-week period of national restrictions, we should all be doing our best to avoid any non-essential contact between people who do not live together, and where contact is unavoidable such as in schools, there must be clear, well managed Covid safety procedures in place.

Out-of-school activities (including wraparound care) may continue to operate if their primary purpose is providing registered childcare, or where they are offering other childcare activities, where this is reasonably necessary to enable parents to:

- work or search for work
- undertake training or education
- access respite care, including for vulnerable children

Provision should **only** be in place for those children that need childcare for those purposes and not for wider groups. Out-of-school activities that are primarily used by home educating parents as part of their arrangements for their child to receive a suitable full-time education (which could include, for example, tuition centres, supplementary schools, or private tutors) may also continue to operate.

Youth support services, including 1-1 youth work and support groups, may also continue to operate.

These settings should continue to undertake risk assessments and implement the system of controls set out in the [protective measures for holiday clubs and after-school clubs and other out-of-school clubs for children during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak guidance](#). Providers of youth services and activities should also refer to the National Youth Agency's guidance for [managing youth sector spaces and activities during COVID-19](#), where it is relevant to do so.

All other out of school activities, not being primarily used by parents for these purposes, should close for face to face provision but can offer remote education, for the duration of the national restrictions.

It is also important to note that some premises which settings would typically operate out of may only be able to open for certain limited purposes. You should check the latest [guidance on new national restrictions from 5 November](#) to see which businesses and venues can open and for which purposes.

Relevant guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020>

## **How to register as a childcare provider**

In order to enable out of school settings to abide by these regulations, Birmingham City Council will continue to offer support to any setting that wishes to **register with Ofsted as a childcare provider** through a fast-track process to enable provision of childcare. Settings

must be able to provide clear evidence of how exemptions apply to their provision. This will provide confidence that providers have the appropriate child protection and safeguarding practices in place to protect children during a period where they may be the only service provider in contact with children. Registration on the voluntary childcare register is free and the Council has set up an accelerated process with Ofsted to help new registrants move through the process quickly, you can find out how to register by contacting [\*\*EYduty@birmingham.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:EYduty@birmingham.gov.uk)

The Council also requires providers who do wish to open under this exemption to be able to evidence how Paragraph 17 applies to the children attending their setting either should be able to evidence that children attending are doing so to enable the parent to work, search for work, undertake training or education or for respite.

Although these may seem like additional burdens on providers these are requirements in line with legislation that will help protect children and families as well as staff and providers during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Justin Varney**  
Director of Public Health  
Birmingham City Council



**Dr Tim O'Neil**  
Director for Education and Skills