

# Day Venues

Guidance

# Day Venues

Youth work organisations use a range of different venues for delivering their services. The venue itself is a key part of the overall safety management system so advance planning is required.

When using day activity venues that are not owned or managed by the youth work organisation, workers should ensure that procedures are in place to manage the safety and wellbeing of young people and workers at the venue. The need for this is even greater in settings that are not specifically designed for young people or are open to the public such as hotels or hostels. An induction should be arranged to familiarise the activity leader with the venue and share relevant safety information, for example where the fire exits and fire extinguishers are located.

Where the venue is owned or managed directly by the youth work organisation, effective policies and procedures should be upheld. If the site is shared with other activities that are not directly related to youth work delivery, additional policies, procedures and risk assessments should be applied.

Before booking venues with any external provider, organisations should undertake a check and assessment of the provider or venue to help assess that appropriate safety standards are in place (see Third party providers for further information). A preliminary visit to new venues (or ones that have undergone changes since they were last used) will normally help identify the more significant health and safety considerations and inform the risk assessment process. Checks could also be made to confirm that the venue or provider holds any external accreditations relevant to their provision (see Accreditation schemes for further details).

On arrival at any venue, workers should carry out a basic visual inspection of the facilities to observe the general state of the site, rooms and/or building fabric, any equipment provided; and to ensure emergency exits are clearly marked and accessible. Workers should try to meet with venue staff upon arrival to check whether there has been any changes or health and safety matters they need to know during the day. If necessary, workers should implement additional control measures to help ensure group safety. If workers are concerned and are not confident that all risks can be managed effectively on the day, plans for the day should be changed.

It is always good practice to ensure that all young people and workers are informed of pertinent safety information in relation to the venue/site. A basic safety briefing (See Safety briefings for further information) should be provided on arrival and should cover key aspects such as:

- A description of key locations, possibly as a tour of the site in more complex locations
- Fire safety and evacuation procedures (see below)
- First aid points
- Security and other site users
- Key hazards
- Expected standards of behaviour
- Where to find and how to contact staff
- Washing and toilet facilities and an explanation of any safeguarding measures in place

If the use of the day venue is for a large event beyond your usual group size please see our [Large Events](#) guidance.

If the event size exceeds 200 people please also see our [Martyn's Law](#) resource for additional guidance.

## Fire safety

Although fire is normally of greater concern during the use of residential venues, fire safety should remain a primary concern when booking and using day activity venues. The Fire safety resource provides more information and some good practice that can be applied to day venues.

## Safeguarding: access to toilets and washing facilities

Arrangements for managing the use of shared facilities should be considered in advance at day venues. Where possible, single gender facilities should be used, and staff should use separate facilities to young people. Facilities should be lockable and secure and provide a private space. Where possible, facilities should not be accessible by other users of the site or the public. Cubicles must be secure enough that children feel safe but care must be taken not to inadvertently provide a locked room that could be used for sexual activity, (whether consensual or abusive), bullying, substance abuse, misuse or distribution or any other illegal or anti-social activity.

Where this is not possible, staff should consider appropriate, reasonable and practical control measures to safeguard all group members, e.g. allocate specific washing/showering times for separate [groups/genders, young people and staff](#).

## Use of private settings

Currently, there are no appropriate frameworks, legislation, or consistent safeguarding protocols in place to ensure that youth sector activities delivered in private dwellings — including the homes and gardens of youth workers, volunteers, or young people — are safe for all involved. With this in mind, the NYA believes that youth work or enrichment activities is fundamentally unsafe.

Using private homes for youth work raises significant safeguarding and professional risks. It blurs essential boundaries between practitioners and young people, which can lead to allegations, misunderstandings, or inappropriate behaviour. These risks not only compromise the safety and wellbeing of young people but also expose practitioners and organisations to reputational and legal vulnerabilities. Domestic environments are not designed or regulated for youth sector delivery, and typical household insurance does not cover youth work activities. Public liability insurance and appropriate safeguarding procedures would be required to operate safely.

In limited, mitigated, and extenuating circumstances — where there is no alternative and where not engaging would exclude a young person from accessing critical support — delivery in a private dwelling may be considered as a last resort. In such cases, organisations must ensure all recommendations set out in the NYA's guidance *Youth Work in Private Dwellings: Safety first – no compromise* are followed. This includes undertaking robust risk assessments, maintaining supervision standards, securing the necessary insurance, and implementing safeguarding protocols equivalent to those expected in formal youth work settings.

If youth work is being delivered in a [private dwelling](#) under these exceptional circumstances, practitioners should seek support and guidance from their local authority, Regional Youth Work Unit, the NYA, or the NSPCC, and ensure that relevant training, oversight, and accountability measures are in place

For individual activities such as tuition or music lessons, or any other group activity such as sports or religious activities, please refer to the Government guidance on keeping children safe during community activities, after-school clubs and tuition: non-statutory guidance for providers running out-of-school settings for the relevant due diligence requirements.

If the regular venue you use is not available and you would like to continue to provide services or activities for young people, if appropriate, consider using a third-party venue following the guidance summarised in this document. If using a third-party venue is not appropriate consider, using a public space, review the public spaces and outreach work guidance to help you consider and manage potential risks.