

**Remote Education Offer – 2020/2021**

**Introduction**

The Covid-19 pandemic has presented considerable challenges for education providers. Barnardo’s ETS has needed to act swiftly to adapt its approach to teaching, learning and assessment moving between full onsite delivery to fully remote teaching and learning. In many cases, a blended approach has been used especially where localised outbreaks have resulted in groups being required to self-isolate as per government guidance.

We understand the importance of face-to-face delivery and have continued to maintain a safe learning environment for our learners, enabling the vast majority of them to continue to attend their programmes. We will work hard to ensure learners receive the right support to achieve while learning remotely and tutors will continue to keep learners updated with all of the latest tools and resources.

In order to provide transparency and clarity, the Department for Education (DfE) requires independent training providers to publish details of their remote education offers if learners need to self-isolate or local/national restrictions require them to stay at home.

**Remote Education for 16-19 Learners**

Barnardo’s ETS services will provide a range of remote learning methods for learners, these include the use of:

* Google Meet for virtual lessons
* Zoom
* SVLE (Smart Virtual Learning Environment) for sharing resources and assessing learning
* Google Classroom
* Smart Assessor for accessing reviews and uploading learning.

All platforms used for remote learning are available to staff and learners. We provide learning flexibly and can deliver all programmes remotely. Staff and learners will receive training on the use of appropriate software and platforms to ensure they can use the systems.

Adaptations to assessment requirements will be made where necessary to support young people to achieve their qualifications.

**Remote Education for Adult Learners**

Remote delivery is now in operation for adult learners across all curriculum areas except for any practical workshop elements requiring the development of new skills; where possible we will prioritise this learning and adapt the delivery and sequencing of the course of study to ensure no one is disadvantaged. Construction courses are an example of where this approach can be utilised.

**Remote Education for Apprentices**

Apprentices will continue to meet the 20% ‘off the job’ element by a range of flexible models already in place by their vocational assessors. For example, apprentices have weekly sessions via Google Meet and Smart Assessor to ensure teaching and learning is delivered effectively. Assessors are on hand to support all apprentices during the working week. All reviews are currently conducted remotely with employers and apprentices to ensure knowledge, skills and behaviours continue to be developed. Targets and actions will be set accordingly and progress reviewed with performance monitored against planned expected end dates.

**Delivery Arrangements**

Barnardo’s ETS have a range of delivery options and have made adaptations to local timetables dependent on the needs of students, group sizes and location e.g. bubble groups for different courses may have a blend of online learning and face-to-face lessons, with the majority weighted to face to face learning where possible. Staff will prioritise practical and workshop learning to avoid any disadvantage should services need to close or a national lockdown be announced.

In the event of a national or local lockdown we will follow DFE guidance and offer some timetabled provision to learners who are classified as vulnerable.

Staff are fully trained in using the range of virtual platforms that we deliver remote learning on and have access to resources, recorded sessions and use this for submission of completed work and assessment. Staff will support learners to gain access to the systems through a personal ID and login and will provide guidance and training to ensure that all learners can access the system confidently.

Health and Wellbeing support will be delivered remotely using a range of options. Tutors will maintain contact with learners who are working remotely to provide support and monitor concerns that arise e.g. mental health issues through email, telephone and online using Google Meet. Any resources required will be sent to learners to access additional support for issues such as mental wellbeing, domestic violence and homelessness.

**Expectations of Learners**

Remote learning expectations have been shared with learners through an updated code of conduct including how to keep safe on line and the appropriate use of IT equipment**.** We expect all learners to participate in all remote learning opportunities provided. Where learners are unable to participate due to illness or other issue they should report this to their class tutor and registers will be marked accordingly. Learners receiving a loan device will be expected to sign an agreement and return the device on the agreed date.

**Support for Learners without Devices and Connectivity**

Barnardo’s ETS will provide devices to all learners where they do not have access to a suitable device. This funding can be drawn from the Barnardo’s emergency appeal or from the 16-19 Bursary Fund which provides financial support to help learners overcome specific financial barriers to participation so that they can remain in education**.** This may include the provision of devices and connectivity support. We also have access to the Vodafone scheme which provides connectivity to learners who do not have access to the internet.

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**Support for Learners with SEND**

Learners with SEND will continue to receive remote learning support through their tutor. Some learners with SEND may require paper based material to be posted out to them; this will be arranged locally based on need by tutors.

**Further Information**

If you require further information about the remote education offer in the first instance, please contact your tutor or centre manager. Alternatively email Geoff.Mount@barnardos.org.uk – Head of Operations.

Barnardo’s delivers ESFA/DfE learning and skills courses from centres in North Tyneside, Yorkshire and the Midlands. Timetables for each centre and the respective programme will be published on a local centre’s social media feed on a weekly basis.