Advice to training providers – move to Level 3 – 26 April 2021

The Scottish Government cannot determine for you whether training can be delivered face to face at this time. We can however, highlight guidance and principles which you will wish to consider in determining how this is taken forward. In this respect, we hope that what is set out below is helpful.

The Coronavirus regulations provide an exception (in all Levels) permitting gatherings for the purpose of education or training, so it is therefore permissible to undertake this in a variety of different venues. However, in considering whether to deliver, you will wish to consider the following:

- From 26th April, colleges and universities in levels Three and Four will move to restricted blended learning.
- Subject to continued reduction of infection rates, from 17th May, all of Scotland will move to Level Two, with a move to Level One from 7th June. In both these levels, a blended learning approach is permitted. If the planned move to Level 0 in late June progresses, a blended approach will continue.
- Where possible however, delivery should remain on-line to reduce the risk of further transmission of infection. Further information on the local protection levels within Scotland currently in place can be found here: Coronavirus (COVID-19): Local Protection Levels.
- If the training requires face to face delivery, then you will wish to consider the guidance set out in the Coronavirus (COVID-19): Community Learning and Development Guidance, and the Coronavirus (COVID-19): Universities, Colleges and Student Accommodation Providers Guidance which sets out the requirements and considerations for delivery of education and training in formal and non-formal training environments.
- Those employers/providers delivering training in the workplace for staff who would otherwise continue to be in that workplace, will also wish to consider the guidance appropriate to their sector.
- If delivery is planned in a hotel or other privately hired space, you will also wish to consider the relevant sector guidance set out in the Coronavirus (COVID-19): Tourism and Hospitality Sector Guidance .
- Dependent on the number of attendees, a checklist on events is available here and may be helpful - Coronavirus (COVID-19): events sector guidance - gov.scot (www.gov.scot).
- Risk assessments should be carried out in advance of any delivery, in respect of both the venue and delivery or training itself, with all action taken to ensure safe delivery of the training.
- Residential training events continue to carry heightened risk and training providers will wish to consider if the residential element is required. It may be possible that a blended approach of on-line and face to face learning for only those parts where this is necessary might enable delivery in the venue over one day.
- Where residential training is taking place, providers will wish to consider guidance on self-catering/hotel usage regarding non-familial sharing: How can I ensure my accommodation is safe for visitors?

In addition we would also like to bring to your attention The Health and Safety Executive's short guide on working safely during the coronavirus outbreak.