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WHAT DOES ANOTHER LOCKDOWN MEAN FOR FACE TO FACE DELIVERY?...

Well not surprisingly we're heading back into another National Lockdown from 5th November, so what does this mean for face to face delivery?

Well the first key difference from the lockdown in March, is that the Government have highlighted the importance of learning and development, by clearly stating that provision should remain open. So face to face delivery will continue, particularly for young people, where it is safe to do so.

As regards to Adult Learning, the National Lockdown Guidance states, "adult education settings should consider moving to increased levels of online learning where possible," see point 7 on the [LINK](#). However, if online delivery to adults is not possible or very difficult, face to face appears permissible according to AELP in discussion with the ESFA (Government Skills Funding Agency).

As of 3rd November, the education guidance has not changed to include any new national lockdown requirements stating, "this will be reviewed and updated shortly," however, we expect to see changes to the guidance last updated on 16th October, so keep a look out for this.



Here's the link to the latest national educational guidance [LINK](#)

We also think HLC and partners are now better prepared to deal with Covid restrictions, having learnt a lot from the amazing response to supporting learners and partners during the first lockdown.

Provision has been enhanced by more effective virtual delivery, learners without ICT now have better access to virtual learning, and most importantly, partners' have risen to the challenge of helping the increasing numbers of learners struggling to cope, by enhancing the pastoral care and well-being of learners, through broader enrichment, using creative and health based activities, access to food, virtual social events and mental health support. These elements, blended with continuing face to face delivery, will ensure that the increasing numbers of unemployed now being referred to HLC programmes, can continue to be supported into further learning and work.

"STOP PRESS : New Face to Face guidance issued". [LINK](#)



Paul Rands,
Deputy CEO, HLC

<https://www.hlc-vol.org/>



THIS-ABILITY BACK TO FACE TO FACE DELIVERY

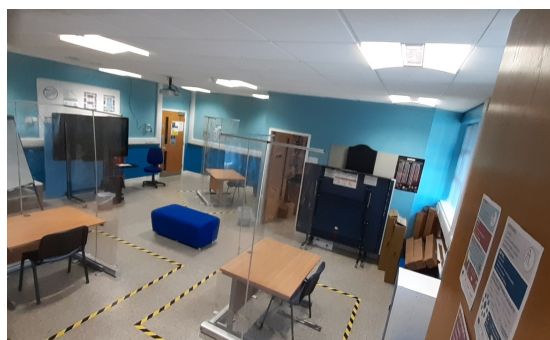
This-Ability provision has now returned to the classroom delivering the employability passport sessions to our learners.

A lot has changed since we last delivered in the classroom, no longer do we have groups of six to eight learners in the classroom at the same time, we have now divided our large classroom in to two individual one's to comfortably accommodate two learners and one mentor in each class.

We also now only deliver in the mornings to reduce the risk of infection and to ensure that a good cleaning regime can be followed in the afternoons.

Every week the mentors call the learners to conduct a health check, this is a short survey of questions to see if the learners have any known symptoms of COVID-19 or if they have been in contact with anyone who has a confirmed case. If they pass this health check, they are then allowed to attend the sessions that week.

On arrival to the Hub all learners are required to wear a mask until they are at their allocated desk, they can then remove the mask if they wish. There are hand sanitising points at every door and hallway within the building along with



limited access to areas such as the toilets to ensure people stay socially distanced.

The classrooms now also look rather different, each learner is allocated their own desk with portable screens to place around them. Each of those desks have their own space within the room and are socially distanced from the others. Alongside this every learner is given their own draw and welcome pack, this contains all the stationery they will need on the course along with items of PPE such as disposable masks, hand-sanitiser and anti-bacterial wipes.

The mentors have re-developed a large majority of the course due to activities that can no longer take place due to social distancing and they are constantly creating and improving the resources they use to overcome whatever challenges may arise.

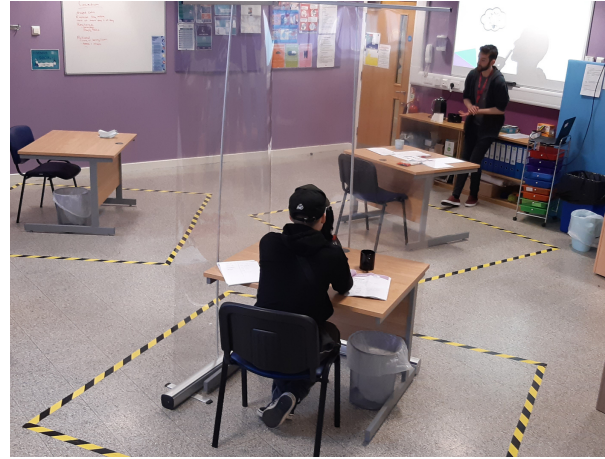


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Although it has been challenging at times, the benefits of face to face delivery are overwhelming. Staff members have said that they feel more motivated and have seen an improvement in their well-being and sleep patterns. The learners are also benefitting, one learner said,

"I like being around people again. Coming into the classroom breaks up the week and gives me something to look forward to."



Another learner has said,

"It's given me a reason to get up in the morning and go to bed at night, it has given me back my routine. I feel more motivated and have more energy since coming into the classroom."

For more information please contact This-Ability@hlc-vol.org.

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