

## **Non-medical support for meetings**

### **Jim – Coppull Methodist Church Meeting, Lancashire**

Most services had to drastically reduce or end face-to-face, one-to-one and group contacts but some of these will be returning where permitted and safe.

Telephone one-to-one contacts should be maintained wherever possible. Keeping in touch by phone generally will be important but especially for those without internet access. Services should consider providing phones or credit to staff and service users who don't have them. Staff can call service users, even if service users don't have credit to make calls.

Mutual aid and other support groups that can meet digitally, without the need for face-to-face contact, should continue to do so. Groups of up to 6 can also meet outdoors, socially distanced. However, groups could – if necessary – now also meet indoors and in-person within the social distancing guidance and principles, in community facilities that have been made COVID-19 secure. Groups should continue to protect anyone who is clinically vulnerable: they should be discouraged from attending but, if they need to attend, everyone attending should be even more rigorous with distancing and other precautions. Anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable should still not attend an indoor meeting at all. People should only attend a group with one other household – they can then meet with others outside their household, but should minimise their social interaction outside of the meeting. They will need to socially distance from anyone they do not live with or who is not in their support bubble. This means 2 metres if possible or, if not, 1 metre with mitigation (masks, sitting side-by-side, etc).

Groups should read the general guidance and any advice from their parent body and venue, and agree – with the venue – whether they should meet face-to-face and, if they will, how they will ensure everyone's safety, considering the following issues:

- cleaning
- hand washing
- face coverings
- noise
- toilets
- crockery
- seating
- travel
- entrances and exits
- monetary collections
- track and trace
- clinically vulnerable and clinically extremely vulnerable members