

Guidance for Battalions

In these challenging times that we are all experiencing, there is an important role for everyone in the Brigade family to play as we continue to offer opportunities to children and young people to learn, grow and discover.

Over this session it has been good to see how Battalions have been supporting their Companies, whether it be organising virtual support sessions, arranging care and activity packages for Companies to use with their members or assisting with capitation fees needed to support the ongoing work of the Brigade.

We recognise there are of course differences across the Regions and between Battalions. These include size, the geographical reach and associated challenges and the financial resources available, however we want to encourage all Battalions to do what they can to support the Companies and members they serve.

We have set out the following recommendations for Battalions, which practically give ways they can play a significant role delivering local support and encouragement. It is hoped that the time, expertise and energy invested into the Battalion's normal activities can be instead re-directed in ways described below.

It is recommended that Battalions:

- 1) Keep up-to-date with Covid-19 related guidance provided by Brigade, the UK/RoI Governments and devolved administrations, Church denominations and regional youth services and assist Companies and members to adhere and work within this guidance.
- 2) Communicate with Captains/Correspondents and Leaders-in-Charge - assess what is needed and, where possible, extend support, guidance and signposting to further resources and support both within the Brigade, and from organisations online and in your local area.
- 3) Maintain regular communication with all leaders in the area, providing guidance, support and importantly encouragement.
- 4) Provide virtual opportunities to share good practice as well as providing spiritual support and fellowship.
- 5) Consider setting up mentoring/buddy schemes to support leaders and Companies.
- 6) Continue to try to raise the profile of the BB locally, by sharing what Companies are doing. This will help to support the recruitment of new members when this becomes possible.
- 7) Review the financial resources at its disposal and how they can be used during this period to support Companies, and the wider Brigade where possible.
- 8) Reflect and plan ahead by taking time to review the effectiveness of what you offer to Companies and members. This can be done in various ways suited to how you work together within your Battalion. In particular, reflect on how you add value to the experience of children and young people in your area and what the Battalion's role and priorities may be for the year ahead.

These are challenging times, but we have seen how Battalions can rise to the challenges and play an important role assisting Companies in their mission to support children and young people. Thank you for all that you are doing.