



Focusing on Ability Dear Dementia Active members,

We have had a number of people asking us when we are likely to reopen the groups. As you can imagine we have been following government announcements and progress regarding the control of the COVID virus very closely.

Currently under government guidelines, as a support group we could have remained open throughout the last few months, however the sudden and frightening surge in COVID cases in December meant that this was not an option. From April 12th when the UK enters step 2 of the government roadmap, the following (taken from the government website) will apply:

'Step 2, which will be no earlier than 12 April, will see the opening of non-essential retail; personal care premises such as hairdressers and nail salons; and public buildings, including libraries and community centres. Indoor leisure facilities such as gyms will also reopen.' <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary>

The decision as to whether we are able to reopen on Thursday April 15th is very much in your hands as the groups can only operate if there are sufficient people attending to make them viable. There will no doubt be those who feel that they do not want to take any risks yet and we completely understand any reservations that members and their families may have. We would therefore ask you to complete and submit the form in the link below by no later than Thursday 8th April.

Hopefully by this point the situation nationally regarding COVID will be clearer enabling you all to decide. We will therefore only make a final decision regarding reopening once we have received everyone's replies. Sadly, if there are not sufficient people ready to return we will need to delay reopening until May 17th (step 3 of the roadmap) when most indoor businesses will be allowed to reopen including pubs and restaurants and by which point everyone will definitely have had both their vaccinations.

If we do reopen groups after Easter, sessions will need to remain 2 hours in length as we cannot include activities which might pose a risk for instance, dancing, singing or exercise. We will of course continue to operate within COVID secure guidelines. All being well we will be able to extend sessions to 3hrs from June 21st as at this point all COVID restrictions including the wearing of face masks and two metre distancing will have been lifted.

[Please click on this link and submit the form by Thursday 8th April](#)

Making the decision to return to a group is not of course a commitment on your part, circumstances change both with regard to COVID and personally.

Finally, you cannot know how much Melissa and I are looking forward to running the groups again and seeing everyone. This has been the hardest of winters.

We hope very much that you are all well (and raring to go!)

Love and best wishes

Andy and Melissa

[Dementia Active Community Interest Company \(Reg No. 11973554\)](#)

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