Send a pre-session email/message detailing what will be happening on the session.

Make an agreement with all young people about what will make them feel comfortable and safe in the space (Ground rules/group charter).

Utilising breaks out rooms to get to know the group more, discuss more in-depth issues – with an adult present.

Encourage the young people to get involved in the planning and delivering of some parts of the content or activities during the session or for a future session.

Use voting tools, emojis, reactions, chat functions to get young people’s opinions and feelings about the sessions or topics discussed or to ask and answer questions.

Ask for feedback and recommendations at the end of session.

Provide resources ahead of the session which you can send out/email to the young people to get them excited and stay engaged in the session.

Make it clear that the young people can have their video on or off – whatever makes them feel comfortable during the session.

Encourage the use of the chat function as it a really good way to get the young people having informal chats (like they would if they were face to face) whilst the session is happening.

Utilise tools such as Miroboard, Mentimeter, Google Jamboard, Kahoot etc to encourage collaboration and interaction during the session.

Make sure to consider young people with Neurodiverse and SEND needs – it’s important that you have information on what would make the sessions more accessible to them and what their needs and or disabilities are in order to tailor the sessions appropriately.

Provide a ‘snack pack’ for comfort breaks where you all can enjoy a snack together during the session.

Utilise pictures, videos, physical activities, breaks, games, speech and text tools etc to engage and support the young people.

Facilitating safe, inclusive and fun sessions for young people online.