

# Advocates for Children & Young People's Work

## A guide for Advocates and area meetings

This leaflet is for new Advocates for Children & Young People's (CYP) Work and the appointing area meetings (AMs). It details the role, what's required of the AM, and the support available.

The aims of the role are:

- to advocate for the needs of children, grandchildren, young people and their families within the AM
- to raise awareness of regional and national Quaker events for children and young people, their parents, carers and families
- to support and encourage local meetings (LMs) and those who work with children and young people by providing resources and opportunities for development resources and opportunities for development.





# Essential tasks

The essential tasks of the role are:

- to speak up for children and young people's opportunities at LMs and AMs
- to obtain information about Quaker opportunities for children and young people and share it with AMs, families, young people, and LMs
- to attend and report regularly to AMs about what is available for children and young people in relation to events, training opportunities and resources
- to consider what might be developed with children and young people across the AM
- to work with AM elders with responsibility for children and young people, where applicable

- to work in accordance with the AM's data guidelines if keeping records of names and addresses.

*"We organised an all-day workshop, 'Our meeting in the future - our hopes and aspirations'. The children's drop-in space meant they were free to go in and out but they also contributed their hopes and ideas."*



# Additional tasks

**Across AMs, Advocates may be required to:**

- encourage new initiatives for children and young people
- hold occasional gatherings for people involved with CYP work in LMs
- be part of AMs' CYP committees, where applicable
- promote opportunities for people to explore their vision for CYP work
- get to know the people who are active in or support CYP work
- advocate for good practice and risk assessments alongside AM Safeguarding Coordinators.

**Within LMs, Advocates may be required to:**

- connect with those involved with CYP work (such as CYP committee members)
- encourage meetings with no engagement with children and young

people to consider how this might be different

- support and encourage all LMs with links to the available resources and training to help develop their CYP work
- keep records of which LMs have children and young people. Any such records should be kept in accordance with the guidelines included in the Advocate introduction pack, alongside AM guidelines.

**Advocates may also develop networks across AMs. This might involve:**

- working with their fellow Advocates in neighbouring areas to develop and support joint initiatives such as Link Groups and summer events
- attending occasional conferences and events to meet, share and exchange with others, e.g. the Advocates' gathering held every 18 months.





# Area meeting tasks

The tasks for the AM are:

- to appoint one or two Advocates in the AM
- to inform BYM's CYP Team of the appointment (see over for contact details)
- to consider children and young people's involvement across the AM – don't just leave this to the Advocate
- to appoint Friend/s with an eldership responsibility for children and young people and to support the Advocate
- to enable Advocates to keep records of the names and ages of children and young people and the contact details of parents/carers
- to ensure that accurate records are passed on to succeeding Advocates as per their introduction pack and AM guidelines.



"Creative topics such as singing, music, dance and art all work well for all-age worship events."

"We had a very successful all age singing workshop."

"Good and regular publicity helps to attract and inform people."

"Two people on the job are better than one."

"Make contact with local schools, perhaps through your families."

"Budget support has reflected the demand for CYP events. Our treasurers and clerks have been very supportive."

"Display children's work around the meeting house."

# Support for the role

**Advocates can expect to receive support from the following AM groups or role-holders:**

- the AM CYP Committee, where it exists
- the AM Clerk – the Advocate is an AM appointment operating in the care of the clerk and should not work in isolation
- Friends with eldership responsibility for children and young people
- overseers with responsibility for children and families
- AM Safeguarding Coordinators
- trustees with responsibility for premises and safeguarding
- AM Treasurers.

**Advocates can expect to receive LM support from the following:**

- the CYP Committee or those appointed to maintain opportunities

for children and young people

- the LM clerk and enthusiastic local Friends.

**Support from BYM's CYP Team:**

- a monthly newsletter, which has details of training and forthcoming events
- Journeys in the Spirit: Children's work edition (monthly) and Youth work edition (one or two per year)
- online links to sample policies to share for use at events
- an Advocate for CYP Work e-group, which includes the contact details of Advocates in neighbouring area meetings. This enables networking for young people's activities, Link Groups, training opportunities, and big events
- the Advocates' gathering held every 18 months – a chance to meet BYM's CYP staff and to share and learn from other Advocates.





# The BYM Children & Young People's Team

To get in touch with a member of the CYP Team please contact the CYP Administrator, who will direct you to the appropriate person:

Email: [cypadmin@quaker.org.uk](mailto:cypadmin@quaker.org.uk)

Phone: 020 7663 1013

[www.quaker.org.uk/cyp](http://www.quaker.org.uk/cyp)

[www.yqspace.org.uk](http://www.yqspace.org.uk)



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