**Youth Development Worker**

Developing Quaker opportunities for young people locally.

**Quakers in Britain**

Quakers in Britain – or the Religious Society of Friends – is part of Churches Together in Britain & Ireland. Quakers share a way of life, not a set of beliefs. They seek to experience God directly, within themselves and in their relationships with others and the world around them. Quakers have a liberal theology and meet together for worship in local meetings, which are inclusive and open to all. For more information about Quakers go to <http://www.quaker.org.uk/about-quakers>

**Quaker Life Youth, Children, and Families Team**

This team is part of the Quaker Life department, which supports Quaker communities in Britain.

The vision for the work is that children, young people, young adults and families, engage with Quakerism and are a valued part of Quaker communities, enabling them to explore their spirituality and make a difference in the world.

The team works through networking, support, resources and events and learning, to promote engagement with Quaker children and young people in Britain and to advocate for the place of children and young people’s work in other initiatives. For more information about this work, go to [Children and young people | Quakers in Britain](https://www.quaker.org.uk/children-and-young-people)

**Background to the work**

During the last 60 years the number of children and young people who engage with Quakerism has fallen (as has the number of adults). This decline continues in spite of our current work. In response to this trend, funding was been secured to employ Youth Development Workers in Sheffield and the West of England for a fixed term. This was a pilot project to test whether employing regional workers made a difference to the engagement of Quakers aged 11–18 in local and area meetings. The project’s impact was carefully monitored by external evaluators and the evaluation can be found here: [Quaker youth work makes a difference.](https://www.bing.com/search?q=quakers+in+britian+youth+work+can+make+a+difference&form=PRDLR1&pc=DCTE&ocid=DELLDHP17&httpsmsn=1&msnews=1&refig=f2ec011c58884c578b79020b6599e958&sp=-1&pq=quakers+in+britian+youth+work+can+make+a+differenhttps://quaker.org.uk/children-and-young-people/work-quaker-setting/resources-all-age#heading-1)

This pilot project was so successful that Quakers in the regions are paying for a continuation of this work.

The Youth Development Workers are managed centrally by the Youth Children and Families team leader, with discernment about the required impact supported in their assigned regions. They will work closely with adults and young people in Quaker communities in their regions. They will be expected to offer a range of new opportunities that seek to increase local engagement, as well as encouraging wider engagement of young people more generally.