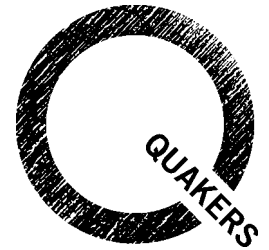


# Young Quakers Participation days alongside Meeting for Sufferings

## Responsible adult information



*The young people I accompanied said they'd really enjoyed the day and I found them very inspiring, engaged and articulate about everything. They wanted to know what we had been doing and as I went through what had happened at Meeting for Sufferings they asked all sorts of questions. Wonderful! Let's do it again! Quote from a responsible adult who supported young people on the 2014 participation day.*

### **Who takes on this role?**

It is hoped that Area Meeting for Sufferings representatives or their alternates would be willing and able to take on this role. If this is not possible the Area Meeting could ask someone else within the meeting to take on the role. In this case the Area Meeting would need to meet the additional travel costs of the alternate accompanier.

### **Why do we have this role?**

This role is about being responsible for those young people who require some support to enable them attend the day. We also hope that it provides opportunity for conversation about Meeting for Sufferings and the Yearly Meeting's work and that over time the link that this creates would strengthen relationships between adults and young people from the same Area Meeting.

### **What is required of a responsible adult?**

Every circumstance will be different. Initially, the responsible adult will need to liaise (in advance of the day) with up to two young people and their parents. This would be to establish the parameters of the role, depending on the age and needs of the young people and to make practical arrangements about travel etc.

Older young people (17 or 18 year olds for example) may be able to travel independently and require little if any support to be able to attend the day. Whereas, 14 or 15 year olds may need more help. It may only be necessary to meet young people at a London station and then see them back onto a train. The responsible adult should agree what is needed with the individual young people and their parents.

On the day having lunch together is a valuable opportunity as it creates a space for dialogue between the young people and those serving on Meeting for Sufferings. It is an aspect that was clearly appreciated by the young people who have attended previous days. However if it were not possible for Meeting for Sufferings representatives to take responsibility (for example if they have other lunch time commitments) then members of the team working with young people on the day would be able to undertake responsibility for young people at lunch times.

The expectation is that Meeting for Sufferings representatives only do what they are comfortable to do and communicate this to AMs in good time so that if necessary appropriate alternative arrangements can be made.

**What are the safeguarding considerations?**

In most cases Meeting for Sufferings representatives would not require a DBS (formally CRB) check. If the young person is travelling together with the Meeting for Sufferings representative in the public domain or being met at a station, it is not usually necessary for the responsible adult to be DBS checked. If the young people were staying overnight with a Meeting for Sufferings representative or travelling with them in a car, then this might be necessary.

As each circumstance is likely to be different it is not possible to generalise. Friends should consult their Area Meeting Safeguarding Coordinator who is advised to seek advice from Churches Child Protection Advisory Service advice line (most Area Meetings are CCPAS members or should have made alternative arrangements for obtaining safeguarding advice).

**Do we have to do this?**

It is not expected that every Area Meeting will be able to find young people who wish to take up the Participation Day opportunity, or it may not be possible to find an adult to support a young person's attendance. It is not a formal requirement that Area Meetings book young people onto this event.

*Quaker Life 2015*