

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





# 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.



# 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."*





# 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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