



CYWeCare – Help us to ensure the Methodist Church’s work with Children and Young People is fully supported, resourced and funded.

Context

Following a review of MAYC (Formerly Methodist Association of Youth Clubs) in 2006, it was believed a new system was needed to further the Methodist Church’s work with Children and Young people. In 2008 the Methodist Church agreed to fund the Youth Participation Strategy (YPS), initially for 5 years. Its aim was to help young people play a vital role in the Methodist Church, and be involved in decision making on all levels from the Local Church to the Connexion. Part of this saw MAYC and Methodist Children combine. The new team was renamed the Children and Youth Team.

In August 2013 this initial funding ends. While it is obvious that the Methodist Church does not want to lose the great work done under the YPS, there is currently no guarantee that Children and Young People in the Methodist Church will still be able to enjoy the support they have for the last 5 years.

The YPS has been extremely well received both within and outside of the church. In 2011 the YPS was awarded the ‘Hear By Right Award’ In 2012, Methodist Youth President Sam Taylor also won the British Youth Council ‘Make a Difference Award’. This was awarded for making a real difference through his role as the Church’s Youth President. Both these awards are a testament to the success of the YPS.

Impact

During the course of the YPS, a number of fantastic, successful projects have been helped to grow and develop. Without the proper support, resources and funding, these will not be able to happen.

3Generate - Methodist Children and Youth Assembly (Formerly Youth Assembly)

This weekend event evolved from Youth Conference. At the heart of the weekend is the desire to help young people engage with key, important issues in their church, and help them to realise they can have a voice in helping make decisions about all those issues, and more. Throughout the five years of the YPS it has continued to evolve, and grow resulting in 3Generate 2012 being a sell out event. The Methodist Church is obligated to resource an annual Youth Assembly under Standing Order 250.(1) and (14) of CPD

The One Programme

A clear success of the YPS, the ONE Programme encourages young people to take a year on, and engage with a local community based project. Throughout their year, they work with this project, and receive valuable training.

One of the key successes with the ONE Programme is the management that is offered to ONE Programme Participants (OPPs). They are line managed by the Connexion’s Participation Project Managers (PPMs). PPMs are regionally based, and as well as making sure that the OPPs are doing well in their projects, they help Districts and local churches develop their participation. There is £100,000 of funding secured for 10 OPPs in the Connexional Year 2013/14, but the



PPMs are funded as part of the YPS and as such will not be in post after August 2013. As things currently stand, there is no provision for line-managing the young people employed as OPPs after this time.

The Well

Another fantastic resource that helps local Children and Youth Workers connect all year round. It helps to provide resources for local churches and workers. The three strands are training, retreats and forums. These support both employed and voluntary children and youth workers enriching their work, giving them space to be with God and learn from one another as well as having a say in the work done to support them.

The Well also supplies resources online; from reports on best practice to sample consent forms and resource packs on important issues. This is updated regularly when new information comes to light. The Children and Youth team are also available to help churches with questions and queries about the work they are doing.

The Children and Youth Team, and the Youth Participation Strategy have been integral in setting these up, and running them. Without proper support, resources and funding the Church will lose out on years of fantastic work.

What can you do?

We care a lot about the Methodist Church's work with Children and Young People. We want to raise awareness of what the Church has done in the last five years, and ensure that the amazing work continues.

If you have any good news stories about the work of the Children and Youth Team, or an aspect of the Youth Participation Strategy, please do let us know. We want to tell the whole Church how amazing the last five years have been. Let us share the good news of the YPS.

We would also love for as many people as possible to engage their churches, Circuits and District in conversations about how we can ensure that this incredible work continues. You can also help support us by praying for the work of the Children and Youth Team, as well as the campaign, from time to time you will find prayers on our blog - www.cywecare.wordpress.com

We will be running a campaign to share the good news, and encourage the Methodist Church in Britain to fully support, resource and fund Children and Young People within the Methodist Church.

If you'd like to find out more, please email the CYWeCare team at cywecare@gmail.com

Check out the blog at www.cywecare.wordpress.com

Or follow @CYWeCare on Twitter.

The Methodist Church has always led the way in Youth work, lets help it continue.