

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, WESSEX SYNOD

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

GOAL 1

That all churches in the Wessex Synod commit themselves to prayer for youth and children's ministry

- Encourage local churches to include youth and children's events into newsletter and magazines so that congregations know what is happening and can pray for them and the children involved
- Maybe we could write a Synod prayer diary for the Synod for individuals to use
- Make up individual prayer cards for events, especially for Summer Camp, so that local churches can pray for them
- Make additions to District Prayer calendars
- Encourage in various ways local churches to pray for the children and young people who worship and attend groups connected to the church

GOAL 2

That the Wessex Synod has a guiding and supporting Youth and Children's Work Committee to advise and advocate good Youth and Children's Work policies and practice

- New committee structure is in place
- Sort out District representation
- All reports that can be presented in a written form before the meeting, must be sent out with the agenda, therefore giving more time to discuss issues of importance during the meeting
- Members of the committee offer to take on tasks when appropriate

GOAL 3

That all churches in the Wessex Synod develop a strategy for their ministry with children and young people

- Reminder needs to be sent to all local churches again
- The committee could ask for a policy statement from all churches which gives indication of how they are supporting ministry with and amongst children and young people

GOAL 4

That all churches in the Wessex Synod have the opportunity of appropriate training concerning their work with children and young people

- Reminders of how the YCWTD and SYCM work within the Synod needs to be given to all local churches
- Regular newsletters from the Y&C Committee, SYCM, YCWTD
- Use of Synod mailings
- Email communications of training events in the area
- Regular meetings with DYS and DCS to plan appropriate training for the Districts

GOAL 5

That all churches in the Wessex Synod have the support and advice on how to develop existing youth and children's ministries; or to initiate new and innovative developments if they see that as their calling

- All local churches to have access to YCWTD and SYCM
- Need to have information about what new developments are possible
- Need to have knowledge of new resources.

GOAL 6

That the Synod provides events and activities that are culturally relevant and appropriate to meet the needs of our children and young people

- Appointment of SYCM
- Youth Forums to plan and discuss relevant events and activities
- Children's Work Forums to plan and discuss relevant events and activities
- SYCM, supported by the YCWTD, to make annual plan of events and activities to cover all ages and districts/areas

GOAL 7

That the Synod has positive ways of supporting, promoting and resourcing mission and outreach to children and young people

- Going for Gold
- Publish a book of stories to go to each local church
- YCWTD and SYCM
- Knowledge given to local churches of published materials

GOAL 8

That Pilots is developed and advocated as fully as possible within the Synod, recognising its value to the mission of children and young people

- RPO post is held under SYCM
- Pilots Roadshows
- Pilots newsletter
- Regular dissemination of Pilots information

GOAL 9

That the Synod establishes a FURY Assembly and Council to which the districts send representatives so that young people have a voice and a sense of value and belonging. This would ensure that events and projects are undertaken that young people want and would attend, as well as respond to National and Synod proposals and plans.

GOAL 10

That churches in each district have the chance for assistance and support with developing a youth and children's ministry

- YCWTD work

GOAL 11

That districts are supported to hold their own unique events for youth and children

- SYCM
- District Youth Secretaries
- District Children's Work Secretaries

GOAL 12

That those concerned with youth and children's work have training offered and are made aware of wider church opportunities to enrich their ministry

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