



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

**EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD COUNCIL**

# Children & Youth Development



Your guide to the role and responsibilities of this Synod Council Group

New ways of supporting our Synod Mission in a rapidly changing  
world

## What is the Children and Youth Development Team?

The Children and Youth Development Team is a key member of Synod Council. It is authorised by the Council to actively develop, promote and support work with children and young people across the Synod. The Children and Youth Development Officer (CYDO) is responsible for leading the work in the Synod and for working with the Children and Youth Development (CYD) Team to determine the vision and priorities for the group. It will engage with local churches, groups or individuals, as necessary, in order to support the resourcing and development of children and youth work.

**Meeting together for: Strategic Thinking, Action/Development, Support**



- 1. Engaging with Children and Young People.** Develop, promote and support: Synod Meeting, Events, Social Media, Networking, Youth Executive, Pilots and other Uniformed Organisations
- 2. Engaging with Leaders of Children and Young People.** Support with: Pilots and other Uniformed Organizations, Training, Networking, Resources, Signposting
- 3. Engaging with Local Churches.** Supporting a range of people in their roles working with children and young people (e.g. Lay Preachers, Ministers and Elders), Information sharing, Child Friendly Church Award, Signposting, Resources

## What is the Scope, Responsibility and Purpose of the CYD Group?

- Engaging in strategic thinking and visioning that is then developed into action, response and facilitation.
- Developing EM Synod Children's and Youth Development plan in line with denominational priorities.
- Ensuring the CYD plan is implemented and monitored, including required training.
- Advocating for the active involvement of children and young people across the Synod.
- Sharing the Gospel message with children and young people and those adults working with them on their faith journeys.
- Exploring ways of supporting faith journeys as intergenerational communities, advocating for children and young people.

## Who will attend the CYD Group Meeting?

A Synod-appointed Convenor who will lead the group

The Children and Youth Development Officer

The CYD team Networkers, consisting of:

- Regional Pilots Officer
- 2 x representatives from Uniformed Organizations
- 2 x young people
- A Youth Worker
- A Children's and Family Worker
- 1 x Lay representative and 1 x Ordained

The team will be responsible for filling its own vacancies, in accordance with Safer Recruitment

## How will it work with, and support, local churches?

**The Team** will decide the most appropriate way to structure the frequency of meetings and the agenda, ensuring they are clearly focused on the CYD Plan. The Team will facilitate remote meetings, making the best use of technology.

**The CYDO, in conjunction with the Team, will be the driver of the work done in relation to CYD in the Synod**, with the CYDO also providing the link between the denomination and the Synod.

Good communication between the CYD Team and local churches is essential. This communication would be facilitated by **Local Enablers**.

**Local Enablers** are those throughout the Synod, in local churches, who actively advocate for CYD and are the receivers and transmitters of the information relating to CYD.

**The Synod Youth Executive is a place for the voice of young people to be heard.** It exists to encourage, enable and support our young people aged 11-25. It has an open membership.

The Synod Youth Executive: offers meet ups and events, has a social media presence, advocates for young people in the Synod and wider Church, engages in activities at Synod meetings.

**Churches would contact the CYDO** in the first instance for any queries relating to children's and youth work.

## What are the key links with other areas of the Synod?

**Training & Development** - the CYDO provides training for both Lay and Ordained people working with, or wanting to work with, children and young people.

**Safeguarding** - the link with the Safeguarding Officer is key to the work with CYP.

**Ministries** - Lay and Ordained: in relation to resourcing and signposting, training and support.

**Mission** - much work related to churches' part in God's mission to their local communities involves working with children and young people or engaging with them in some way.

**Finance** - the CYD Team is responsible for budget management and regular reporting to the Finance Group.  
Information exchange with Focus Groups as relevant.

## How can I get involved?

**Young People:** Synod Youth Exec - [www.facebook.com/URCEastmidlandsYouth/](http://www.facebook.com/URCEastmidlandsYouth/)

**Others:** a conversation with our Children and Youth Development Officer:

[cydo@urc5.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urc5.org.uk) Tel: 07572 291007

*This leaflet is produced by the Synod Structures and Priorities Review Group, who will be providing a series of leaflets about the new Synod Council and its supporting functions to assist you in understanding the changes. September 2018*