



Background

From 2000 onwards a group of lead members from the main Christian denominations and Christian youth work agencies from across the UK have been meeting together to network, co-operate, share news and engage with wider social and educational policy.

This was the continuation of the work of 'Churches Together in England' (CTE) and its appointed 'Youth Officer'. This post ceased in 2008 as a result of withdrawal of funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (now Education). Consequently, the group lost a valuable advocate/resource in holding together the diverse representation of Christian youth work in the UK.

The group has continued to meet, largely as a result of the voluntary commitment of David Howell, who has negotiated with CTE for them to support the general expenses of the group and enable this important network to continue and grow.

Context

Christian youth work has grown considerably from the early 1980s and research indicates that there could be more people employed by churches and agencies in England now than are employed directly by Local Authorities. There is a significant contribution to youth work being made by Christians and the churches across the four nations of the United Kingdom and Ireland. There are increasing opportunities for Christian youth work to extend in to the provision of services in local communities and the continued challenge of how young people are integrated within Christian faith groups. However there is limited engagement across agencies at national level which negates against the ability of the various groups to learn from each other concerning how to respond to the current crisis in the statutory youth service. In addition there is a need to share good practice, work together on key projects and be represented at various national and UK fora, such as the discussions around National Occupational Standards and those around the proposed Institute for Youth Work.

UK CHRISTIAN YOUTH WORK CONSORTIUM

Purpose

The UK Christian Youth Work Consortium shall:

- affirm, encourage and equip the Christian sector in its work with young people
- provide an opportunity to debate and discuss key issues in youth work, youth policy and youth ministry
- be an inclusive network for leaders in Christian youth work/youth ministry agencies, training providers and denominational youth departments
- represent the Christian youth work constituency on various national and UK bodies and at key events, disseminate information, consult widely to agree common ground, and advocate on behalf of the sector

Membership

Membership shall be open to the following groups across the UK

- Christian denominations
- Christian youth agencies
- Christian training agencies and consultants

Executive

The executive exists to carry out the work of the organisation on behalf of the members

There shall be an executive made up of 3 members from each category, plus 3 others who shall be voted/co-opted. When the first Executive is appointed, the three from each category shall agree who shall serve for one year, two years or three years, in order that the Executive can retain expertise year on year
There shall be a chair elected annually from the three groups in turn

Key officers, drawn from the membership, shall be Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary. Treasurer

It is presumed that the organisation from which the executive member comes will support the work in lieu of payment, but that travel and other expenses shall normally be paid by the Consortium

Interim Executive

The following have committed their time and energy to get the new Consortium up and running and have formed the Interim Executive which shall have a one calendar year life, being replaced eventually by the elected Executive which shall be drawn from the membership as above

Those serving on the INTERIM EXECUTIVE are:

Alastair Jones	Frontier Youth Trust
Lee Jennings	Youth for Christ
Andy du Feu	Moorlands College
David Howell	CTE/CTBI
Paul Fenton	Oasis College
Jonny Whitmore	Salvation Army Alove
Helen Bardy	Newman University College
Meg Prowting	Methodist Church

Plus other key people whom the Interim Executive are inviting to take part

Funding

Christian denominations, youth agencies and training agencies shall normally pay £250 per year, which shall entitle them to 5 representatives at appropriate meetings and events

Key individuals/consultants shall normally pay £50 per year which shall entitle them to attend appropriate meetings and events

The desire of the Consortium is to be inclusive and if the finance will be a problem then the individual/agency should talk to the Chair or Treasurer.

For the time being CTE has agreed to manage the finances of the Consortium.

Activity

- Lecture Series
- Workforce Development
- Quarterly bulletin
- Promotion of events and services through the web site

- Email network (in place)
- Christian Youth Work Training website (cywt.org.uk)
- Lobbying
- Campaigning
- Representing UK Christian youth work on, and providing input into bodies such as:
Youth Work National Occupational Standards [DH]
Institute for Youth Work [tba]
Education and Training Standards Committees in the four nations [England – Mary McGinty;
Scotland - ; Wales - ; Northern Ireland -)
Training Agencies Group (YW Lecturers in Higher Education) [PF]
Joint Negotiating Committee for Youth Work [AJ]
All Party Parliamentary Group for Youth Affairs
- Provide an opportunity for the various disparate events and conferences to meet together

Relationship with Churches Together in England/Churches Together in Britain & Ireland

The UK Christian Youth Work Consortium will work alongside and together with other bodies in order to support and extend Christian youth work and ministry.

UK CYWC has been recognised by **Churches Together in England** as the Enabling Group for Youth Work in England. CTE cover the expenses of the group and will provide the necessary financial service/infrastructure as the new body develops and grows.

UK CYWC is seeking working relationships with CTBI and the Churches Together groupings in the other three nations, in order to serve the church across the UK representing Christian youth work to governments, key agencies and wider bodies.

For further information contact

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UK Christian Youth Work Consortium is supported by:

