



The youth work newsletter for the Diocese of London

What does it take to fit in?

Something that caught my attention this week are results from the recently launched NHS website Teen LifeCheck. They show that almost half of young people using the site are most worried about losing weight, bullying and fitting in. These three issues seem to suggest that matters causing the greatest concern for young people are around image and acceptance. Further research also shows that 48% of teens don't feel they can talk to their friends about their worries because they think they'll be considered silly or different.

This highlights the need for our young people to be able to access activities where they feel accepted rather than feel under pressure to fit in and where their views and ideas are valued and listened to.

Teen LifeCheck is aimed at teens with the highest risk of future ill health caused by their lifestyle choices. It encourages them to complete its quiz and act on the results, and signposts support for issues like bullying. You can find it at: www.teenlifecheck.co.uk

Calling all professional youth workers...

We are currently looking to create a team of professionally qualified youth workers from across the Diocese who would be interested in delivering our accredited youth work course in their local area, to try and skill up as many volunteer youth workers as possible. If you would be interested in finding out more, please call or email Kate (details on page 2).

Clair Cooke, Programme Manager

News round up

Youth work training

We are running two courses between now and Christmas:

Recruiting and retaining volunteers – Tuesday 10 November 09, 10am-3pm at London Diocesan House, Pimlico. Cost: £20.00

This one-day course will look at recruiting, supporting, motivating and retaining volunteers. It is aimed at those youth workers and clergy who would like to increase their volunteer base or develop their skills to help support and develop their current volunteer team.

Session ideas for young people – Tuesday 17 November 09, 6.30pm-8.30pm at London Diocesan House, Pimlico. Cost: £10.00

We all need fresh ideas every once in while when it comes to planning sessions for the young people we work with. With this in mind, we're running an evening workshop for anyone in the Diocese who would like some inspiration for new ice-breakers, activities and projects to run with young people. The age range we'll be aiming at is 11-16 year olds, but with a little imagination a lot of the resources can be adapted for other age groups. It will be an informal evening and there will be a chance to share some of the sessions that have worked well for you. There will be examples of good resources from our library and you'll receive a pack of ideas to take away with you. This workshop will feature new ideas and resources so if you enjoyed last year's session, this

Booking a place on either of these courses is essential and places tend to fill up fast. For a booking form, please contact Kate (details opposite).

Conference update

Unfortunately, due to a number of reasons, we are postponing the Good Childhood conference that was scheduled for Saturday 7 November. The planning team are keen to make the conference as affordable for churches as possible, whilst still providing a top quality event. This means that we are now researching alternative venues in order to keep costs to a minimum. So, if you are a church in central(ish) London and would be willing to host the Diocesan children and youth workers conference in May/June next year, please do get in touch with Kate.

Name change

Kate got married in July and has changed her surname to Hawkins. Please note her new email address is now:

kate.hawkins@childrenssociety.org.uk

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Young Times is produced by the Youth Development Project of the Diocese of London. It is a quarterly newsletter for churches in the Diocese to update and inform about good youth work practice, both locally and nationally.

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Q and A

In this edition of *Young Times* we kick off our new question and answer column. It will address some of the queries put to us by youth workers, volunteers and clergy from across London. This month, two issues discussed recently by learners on our 'Essentials of working with young people' course...

Q: "I volunteer at a church youth group on Friday evenings; is it ok for me to give out my personal mobile number so that young people can contact me outside of club times?"

A: Being a youth worker means establishing professional boundaries with young people and one of the key boundaries is when and where they can contact you. Good practice dictates that a youth worker should never give out their personal contact details to young people, including mobile phone numbers and home addresses. Otherwise, a young person might think that it's ok to call you at times when you're not working (for example, Saturday night when you're watching X Factor and enjoying a nice glass of wine), or pop round to your house.

Getting a work mobile phone can be a good solution as this number can be given out to young people, along with days and times that you are accessible. If the youth group is solely run by volunteers, consider speaking to the vicar and seeing if the church will fund a mobile phone for the youth workers. That way, volunteers may agree to devise a rota whereby they have the work phone switched on for one hour each evening and young people can speak to someone during those times.

"I pass some of the young people's houses on my way home from youth group; is it ok for me to give them a lift in my car back to their homes?"

A: In order to safeguard all parties from potential abuse or allegations of abuse youth workers should avoid putting themselves in situations where they are alone with a child or young person. We would not advise a lone youth worker to give a young person or group of young people a lift. Instead, two adults should be present in a vehicle when driving young people anywhere (with an appropriate gender balance, where possible). This includes if there is an incident on a residential and a young person needs to be taken home (as a result of behaviour problems or an emergency at home) or if they are injured and need to be taken to a hospital.

It is the driver's responsibility to ensure that seatbelts are worn at all times and the driver of the car should check with their insurer whether they are covered to carry young people as passengers for work purposes.

Funding news

Fundingcentral.org.uk is a free smart website for all third sector organisations, including community groups, providing access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities, plus a wealth of tools and resources supporting organisations to develop sustainable income strategies appropriate to their needs.

Child protection training

There are still a few places left on the Diocesan Child Protection training course on Saturday 17 October. The course will be held at St Anne's, Hoxton from 10am-3pm. Anyone wishing to book a place should contact Catherine Ward on 020 7932 1189 or email her on: catherine.ward@london.anglican.org

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www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Intermission Youth Theatre

In this edition we focus on the work of 'Intermission' – a youth theatre who are taking the arts to new heights...

Intermission Theatre is a professional Christian theatre company, part of Intermission at St Saviour's church in Knightsbridge.

Part of the remit of Intermission Theatre is to connect with disaffected young people in London through the arts. Through a series of interactive dramatic workshops, they relate with honesty and integrity to young people living in an urban environment who may have a limited vision of what life can offer.

Intermission seeks to unlock young people's potential, install self-confidence, introduce them to a broader vision and encourage their personal aspirations whilst in a place of safety and care.

Workshops take place every first and third Saturday of the month from 2pm and are free to all young people. The sessions involve professional actors and include drama games, improvisation and text studies, using dramatic works from classical to contemporary.

To attend a workshop, call 020 7823 8979 or email info@intermissionactors.com



InterMission
YOUTH THEATRE
presents

Why not take a group of young people along to see Intermission's latest production, **Wasted!**

Full of energy, humour and pathos this play has been devised by the youth theatre and is inspired by Shakespeare's Julius Caesar.

7.30pm, Thu-Sat, 19 Nov – 12 Dec 2009. Tickets £10 (concessions available). For more info visit: www.intermissionactors.com/wasted.htm

Equipping Churches update

The Equipping Churches for Youth Work programme that we have been running in the Stepney area since January 2007, is now in its final three months.

Teanne has been working with seven churches to train and support volunteer youth workers and equip them with the skills necessary to run regular youth provisions.

This is model of youth work can be adapted for other clusters of churches across the Diocese and because the key aspect of the initiative is to to skill up volunteers to provide sustainable youth work, it is an attractive proposal for funders. If you would like to explore this model in your area, please get in touch with Kate.

Website

The Children's Society is a leading children's charity committed to making childhood better for all children in the UK.

Visit our website at www.childrensociety.org.uk

