

# Paper B3

## **Children's and youth work committee**

### CYWC outline strategy

Church 2018  
**United**  
Church **2018**  
**Reformed**  
**Church** Church 2018

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#### Basic information

<b>Contact name and email address</b>	The Revd Jenny Mills (committee convenor) <a href="mailto:revdjmill@btinternet.com">revdjmill@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Action required</b>	
<b>Draft resolution(s)</b>	See children's and youth work review report 2018.

#### Summary of content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	CYWC outline strategy in response to review report.
<b>Main points</b>	Sets out a vision and strategy for the next five years for children's and youth work in the URC.
<b>Previous relevant documents</b>	See children's and youth work review report 2018.
<b>Consultation has taken place with...</b>	See children's and youth work review report 2018.

#### Summary of impact

<b>Financial</b>	None
<b>External (e.g. ecumenical)</b>	Potential to increase partnership working with ecumenical and parachurch partners, impacting children and young people beyond the URC.

# CYWC outline strategy

## Fan into flames

- already have the glowing embers – need to encourage, rekindle
- tradition is not worshipping the ashes but tending the flame

URC – aim: thriving local congregations with inclusive, intercultural and intergenerational ethos which are growing those inside and reaching those outside

Purpose for CYWC: **children and young people playing their part in the mission of God**

Strategy: support and strengthen local congregations in five key areas:

- Faith – sharing spiritual resources
- Community – sharing relational resources
- Identity – sharing stories, events, connections
- Engagement – sharing in the life of the local context
- Growth – sharing new, creative, risky change (to develop potential)

Five-year strategy: key tasks

1. Re-unite all the parts children's and youth work
2. Initiate deliberate culture change – non-competitive intergenerational whole life missional discipleship throughout whole church
3. Focus on churches with 'no' children and young people
4. Focus on under 5s, then 5 to 11s, then 11 to 18s, then 18+
5. Reshape CYDO programme – all synods and Church House as learning community and team
6. Reshape Pilots – including project with Messy Church
7. Develop accessible go-to resource bank with links to URC people
8. Develop communication – reinvest in face2face
9. Celebrate!!

## Detailed five-year strategy

### 1. Re-unite all the parts children's and youth work

- Clear vision and focus – every part see where it fits in this
- Connect URCSF, BB, GB, Pilots, Crossfire, Messy Church etc – cross fertilisation
- Integrated diary of events across whole URC (CYDOs as QA process for this)
- Integrated flow between age ranges – cross over, shared identity

- Connect with other areas of URC to impact positively the lives of children and young people (JPIT, CRCW, FCG)
- Promote partnerships with other agencies to foster engagement in issues impacting children and young people (Action for Children, TLG, etc).

## 2. Initiate deliberate culture change – non-competitive intergenerational whole life missional discipleship throughout whole church

- *Walking the Way* and *Stepwise*
- LICC – training and learning hubs
- Charter for Children – review and revise for 2020 GA
- Church House culture
- Synod culture
- Child Friendly Church Award – local church culture
- RCLs, EM1, EM2, EM3 – training for ministry
- *Yearbook* and annual returns
- *Prayer handbook*
- All-age worship training and resources
- Widen view of ‘church’ to more than Sunday morning
- Church and society, ecumenical and interfaith relations, global and intercultural ministries.

## 3. Focus on churches with ‘no’ children and young people

- Promote discussion and awareness of existing connections with children and youth people in local churches and wider community
- Resources for engaging with children in people’s hearts and minds (grandchildren, wider family, godchildren, friends and neighbours etc)
- Resources for engaging with church premises users – Scouts, Guides, others
- Resources for engaging with local schools, colleges and universities
- Resources for engaging with children and young people in need of extra support
- Resources for engaging ‘occasional’ C&YP attenders
- Resources for connecting with local churches with C&YP – intergenerational exchanges
- Ways to support URC wide C&YP (e.g. Greenbelt craft projects)
- Ways to engage in advocacy for children and young people.

## 4. Focus on under 5s, then 5 to 11s, then 11 to 18s, then 18+

- Year two – under 5s
- Year three – 5 to 11s
- Year four – 11 to 18s
- Year five – 18 to 25s
- For each age group – those in the church, those coming to church premises, and those beyond the church in wider community
- Supporting parents/carers/wider family
- Child baptism/dedication/thanksgiving
- Messy Church
- Making space for children and young people in church and engaging in worship as active contributors.

## 5. Reshape CYDO programme – all synods and Church House as learning community and team

- Every synod asked to give one day per week equivalent of suitably skilled and experienced person to CYW Assembly level work (fulfilling strategy) – cut to 20% (!). Gives equivalent of another 2.6 people to serve the whole denomination
- Need to be negotiated around skills, passions, synod priorities – be response to local church needs etc – more flexible approach
- Possibility of taking a lead for whole denomination in an area for a period of time (one to three years)
- Development of stronger team ethos – synod and Church House staff
- Development of peer learning community – sharing learning and development to benefit whole URC
- Development of peer mutual accountability – whole team working together to achieve shared goals – in direct dialogue with CYWC.

## 6. Reshape Pilots – including project with Messy Church

- Strengthen proactive support for existing companies
- Develop ‘Pilots Lite’ version to complement existing Pilots ‘Max’ as resource for churches running Messy Church/all-age service once a month to create discipleship tool for children in between those events
- Reduce Pilots age range to 5 to 14s and develop young leadership training programme for 15 to 18s for Pilots and others
- Create ‘roadshow’ event for Pilots to run in all synods/regions
- Create project with Messy Church to explore developing discipleship through linking with Pilots.

## 7. Develop accessible go-to resource bank with links to URC people

- Develop website – accessible, easily searchable etc
- Develop resources and links to existing wider resources
- Provide links to URC people and churches that have recent relevant experience in each area
- Create network of ‘this works for us’ advocates.

## 8. Develop communication – reinvest in face2face

- Widen content/contributors and reach of bi-monthly news
- Create networks
- Invest in visiting churches – targets – visit 50% of URC churches in five years? – 50 churches each for each synod and Church House staff – ten per year.

## 9. Celebrate!!

- Share the good news of what URC churches are doing – social media, website, URC communications etc
- Share the good news of what URC C&YP are doing – monthly award, sharing grants and opportunities reports, Youth Exec/synod reps
- Help the church enjoy children and young people being part of URC
- Be a source of hope and joy
- Party – have fun and play.