

Assembly Trustees Report

Chief Officer Section

COMMUNICATIONS ACROSS THE CHURCH – WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

As stated within the main report of the Assembly Trustees, the Chief Officer is clear that work alongside youth and young adult groups must be one of the highest priorities for the Church. Working alongside a group of volunteers, the following goals have been identified for our strategy in this area:

- Active engagement with young people in a positive meaningful way with a view to seeking their input, opinions and involvement wherever possible including identification of both our weak areas and leadership opportunities.
- Working with young people inside and outside of the Church must be treated as the highest priority with clarity around their value and appreciation for their contribution.
- We need to actively listen, share, clearly understand and be willing to be flexible - adapting (not completely changing) our Church to meet young people's needs. This will need investment of time and resources to generate a strong connection, opportunities to network and realise the potential.
- Overall this needs to form part of a high priority co-ordinated intergenerational strategy, enacted with urgency. The strategy needs to use language and approaches that are accessible to all whilst creating a strong youth connection working together and re-establishing the lost connections needed for success.
- We need to think about where the next generation of youth leaders will come from and how we will engage with them. Succession will be vital in these areas as our current representatives become young adults. This isn't just about engaging all those already in the Church – but those who are not part of it.

A number of initial actions have been identified which will complement the work of the Faith Nurture and Faith Impact Forums in this area and are targeted at ensuring that young people are part of this change through active involvement in the national office, implementation and task groups. Encouraging involvement in regional and local church such as Presbyteries and Kirk sessions. Tangible progress has been made in involving the Focus Group, members and broadening out to other young people, with the goal of broader engagement in the next phase of work.