

Yorkshire Synod Locally Recognised Children's and Youth Leaders' Policy

Yorkshire Synod recognise and acknowledge the calling, experience and knowledge of people who are involved in ministry with children and young people. For this reason we have created a category of 'Locally Recognised Children's and Youth Leaders' within the synod, to exist alongside the current 'Locally Recognised Worship Leaders'. The new scheme reflects the process for recognising local worship leaders which is overseen by Yorkshire Synod Ministries Committee. Therefore candidates will be assessed and then recommended by the Synod Children and Youth Committee to the Synod Ministries Committee who will arrange for the successful applicants to be recognised and commissioned.

The scheme is based on a candidate's prior learning and qualifications rather than having to deliver a specific training course to fulfil the criteria. The Children and Youth and Ministries committees have agreed that the level of learning required to obtain this certificate would be Level 4 or equivalent. Individuals who do not have any Level 4 (or equivalent) qualifications may apply to the scheme, however the learning must be completed before the certificate is issued. An example of the required training might be Sheffield Diocese' 'Aurora' training which can be completed to Level 3 (A Level) or Level 4 (First year degree course). Any equivalent (or higher) level training in children's or youth ministry should be equally acceptable, following a meeting with the candidate to assess their suitability. This prior learning will be supplemented as necessary by ongoing support from the Synod Children's and Youth Development Practitioner.

Requirements for Recognition:

Following the pattern set out for Locally Recognised Worship Leaders, candidates would need to meet the following criteria:

- 1 – United Reformed Church Membership
- 2 – A recommendation from their Church Meeting
- 3 – A satisfactory DBS check and completion of Synod Safeguarding Training (Intermediate)
- 4 - An informal discussion with the Synod Safeguarding Officer to ensure you understand the role and responsibilities of working with children and young people.
- 5 – A completed application form (including evidence of learning and experience of ministry with children and young people; a description of their sense of calling to this ministry; a statement of their vision for the place of children and young people within the Church.)
- 6 – A satisfactory observation of the candidate's practice with children and young people. This would be performed by two synod representatives and include a meeting with the candidate to allow for feedback and reflection, and identification of any areas that might need addressing.
- 7 – There is an expectation of ongoing learning and development.
- 8 – The recognition would be reviewed every three years.

Recognition:

When the candidate has met the criteria above, and with the recommendation of the Children and Youth Committee, the Synod Ministries Committee will mark the recognition process by:

Issuing a certificate of recognition

Ensuring the candidate is commissioned at their local church during a church service by a Synod representative (e.g., Ministries Committee Convener).

Ministries Committee, and the synod office will keep and maintain a list of people who have achieved this recognition.

The Children and Youth Committee will offer ongoing support and training to all Locally Recognised Children's and Youth leaders, alongside other paid and unpaid children's and youth workers.

Yorkshire Synod Ministries Committee & Yorkshire Synod Children and Youth Committee, September 2022