



Youth Development Worker Background Information

The Formartine Youth Project (FYP) was formed in 2013 by four rural Church of Scotland Congregations in the North East of Scotland. All four parishes (Barthol Chapel, Methlick, Tarves and Udney & Pitmedden) lie within an area known as 'Formartine' in the Gordon District of Aberdeenshire.

Vision and Aims *“Be, Belong and Believe”*

We want to inspire children and young people to be themselves, develop a sense of belonging in their community and believe in who they are as unique individuals. We want to nurture and support them with positive experiences of the Christian faith.

FYP provides and supports groups and activities for children and young people across the parishes as well as supporting volunteers, in order to achieve its aims.

Ministry

The work of FYP has been greatly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Our previous youth worker left in 2019 and we made a decision not to recruit a new worker while church life was so disrupted and many groups and activities were not able to meet. The churches have also been experiencing challenges and exploring new ways of working together. Some of our previous groups are now restarting and we have been re-evaluating the work of the project and considering what its future will be.

Current activity includes:

- Volunteer led groups and activities: Mainly Music (pre-school/family music classes); Messy Church (Children & Families); Sunday school/ clubs; and a Youth club. These are at various stages in getting up and running again.
- School-based work in association with the church ministers: School Assemblies, chaplaincy support lessons and clubs in local Primary Schools.

In recent years there has been youth worker-led Youth Cafe, faith based small groups for young people, additional groups in Meldrum Academy.

Through these ministries we:

- * Give children and young people positive experiences of the Christian faith.
- * Build positive and lasting relationships between the churches, communities and schools in order to give quality children and youth provision.
- * Give young people opportunities to develop as individuals and be a positive part of where they live. We aim to give them opportunities in the community to learn social skills and develop personal qualities which will benefit their future.
- * We aim to provide a loving Christian environment within which young people will have a variety of opportunities to explore their own identity and develop as confident individuals. We want to see young people grow in their own personal faith journey.



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Our evaluation of the project has identified that we need to develop our work with young people, including re-launching youth work activities in Pitmedden, starting youth work activities in Methlick and Tarves and creating ways across all the communities in which young people can be involved in planning and decision making.

As many of our activities are volunteer-led, or rely on volunteers to make them happen, we are also committing to support them better, including training and development opportunities for existing volunteers as well as recruiting new volunteers, particularly to work with young people.

If you would like to see a little bit more about us, there is a video produced a few years ago as part of the 'Postcards from Go For It' project that talks about the background and vision for the Formartine Youth Project. This can be found at <https://vimeo.com/163911903>

Funding

FYP has previously been largely funded by the Church of Scotland's "Go For It" funding stream as well as our local churches and other funding bodies. The next year of the projects work will be funded from our reserves, contributions from the churches, a grant from Aberdeenshire Council and other grants. Over this time, we want to re-start a number of groups and activities that have been paused due to Covid, and re-engage with young people to find out what their needs are and how we can meet them in the future. This information will be used to inform an future funding applications aimed at securing the long term future and development of FYP.

Project Management

Formartine Youth Project is overseen by its **Steering Group** which consists of:

- Representatives from each of the four Church Congregations

- Ministers from each of the four Churches

- A Gordon Presbytery Youth Work Facilitator

- A Finance/ administrator

The **FYP Ministry Team** will consist of the two Ministers from the four churches and the FYP Youth Worker. They meet regularly to plan and develop opportunities for the parishes to work and worship together.

The **Steering Group** makes decisions about the direction of the Project, recruitment and funding; guided by information from the Ministry Team, Congregations and the Youth Worker.