

Newport Youth Project - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

These FAQs aim to address some of the potential questions churches, church members, leaders and trustees of churches may have about this proposed project.

What does it mean for a church to be part of the Newport Youth Project?

For a church to be part of this project, in simple terms, they should be supporting the Newport Youth Project lead worker(s) in a variety of ways including prayer, practical support, providing volunteers and activity venues as required, although there is not an expectation that every church will be able to help in every area. They should be aware, and in full support, of the work to be carried out by the youth worker(s). Also each participating church is encouraged to provide a representative to join the steering team.

For the project to become a long term success financial support will be required. It is hoped that each supporting church would aim to raise between 2.5-5K per year. Some initial funding for this project is already being received and will help to establish this project in the first year.

What if we can't raise the suggested 2.5-5K per year?

The hope is that each church will commit to raising the suggested amount, however any church unable to meet this level of support is absolutely welcome to be involved and contribute what they can.

What is the expected overall cost of the project?

Initially the project will cost between 20K-30K a year, based on employing one full time or two part time lead workers. The salary will be set by the steering team based on advice from Isle of Wight Youth for Christ. There are then associated costs in addition to the salary.

What are the associated costs outside of the salaried worker?

There are estimated associated costs of £3000 per year. Isle of Wight Youth for Christ charges the project £1500 a year for the costs of administration, training, insurance, DBS check etc. There are additional costs of £500 for associated staff development including the national Youth for Christ conference, team training and christian summer festival.

Additionally £1000 a year should be set aside for the basic running costs of the project that could be spent on resources to help run the proposed activities (e.g. equipment, subsidising activities for young people, refreshments for events, christian youth resources and props for activities/youth work games etc.)

Who is legally responsible for the employee(s), project volunteers and safeguarding?

Isle of Wight Youth for Christ is the legal employer with responsibility for safer recruitment, training, insurances and managing any safeguarding concerns that may arise. Isle of Wight Youth for Christ will implement required line management and supervision.

What do we as churches get out of this?

This worker is committed to working in the Newport area and investing in the young people of this town. Their role is to help coordinate and increase youth ministry opportunities in the Newport area. Therefore you should expect an increase in the awareness of the young people in Newport being reached with the news of the gospel. It's important to recognise that

the youth worker(s) will support projects of churches working together and some relevant IW Youth for Christ events.

Being part of this project does not give a church a set amount of 'hours' of the youth workers time that they can use. The goal is to be working in Newport across multiple projects that benefit a wide variety of young people. This does not mean that they will not directly support youth projects being run by Newport churches, but this will be decided and agreed upon by the steering team.

Will we see the worker on a Sunday morning?

It's incredibly important to stress that this role does not directly involve the youth worker(s) running any church's youth programmes on a Sunday morning. Sunday morning would typically be time off, where the youth worker(s) would be free to participate as a member of a church on the Isle of Wight.

However the lead worker(s) would endeavour to make occasional presentations to Newport church congregations on a Sunday morning, typically once or twice a year.

Where will youth activities take place?

Activities will take place within the Newport area, with the most appropriate venue being chosen in liaison with the steering team with the idea of resources being shared and offered amongst the local churches involved in the project.

How does the project operate?

The activities of the 'Newport Youth Project' would be carried out and overseen by a paid lead youth worker alongside any part time workers, students, volunteers from local churches etc. The lead worker is supported by the steering team made up of representatives of Newport churches.

Is this a completely new idea?

This project has been proposed off the back of two already successful local youth worker projects that take place in the West Wight and in Ryde, the idea being to launch a third independent youth worker project in Newport supported and invested in by the churches of Newport.

What kind of things will this worker be doing?

Taking the example of the West Wight youth project, these activities could include weekly outreach youth clubs, local schools work, taking groups of young people to Youth for Christ events, running holiday bible clubs, one to one mentoring and involvement with other relevant initiatives such as School Pastors and supporting local church youth events as required. The youth project aims to connect primarily, but not exclusively, with 9 to 20 year olds.

What is the purpose of the steering team?

The steering team consists of representatives of the churches involved in the project (along with a Youth for Christ director) - they take ownership of the project. They choose the candidate for the job role, feed into the job description and decide what activities they want the youth worker(s) to partake in. They are not responsible for any legal, employment or safeguarding concerns, which are handled by Isle of Wight Youth for Christ.

Who is 'the boss' of the youth worker(s)?

Isle of Wight Youth for Christ provide their full support and they are the legal employer (responsible for insurance, safeguarding etc.) but the steering team ultimately decide what they want the youth worker(s) to do, not the directors of Isle of Wight Youth for Christ.

The youth worker(s) would however be expected to work in accordance with good working practices, guidelines, code of conduct and policies set out by Youth for Christ.

This project is not about providing another member of staff for Isle of Wight Youth for Christ to use as they see fit. Although they will be part of the Isle of Wight Youth for Christ core team, it is for the benefit of Newport and what the participating Newport churches would like to see achieved in reaching and supporting young people with the good news of Jesus.

How does this project relate to the work that Revive is doing?

There is an expectation that the Newport Youth Project leader worker(s) will relate to the work of Revive, potentially occasionally helping with Newport Youth Cafe. The aim is to make sure there is good cohesion between the community youth work that Revive heads up, alongside the church ministry youth work and discipleship opportunities created by this project.

When is this project likely to start?

As initial funding is already coming in, we want to start this project as soon as every church in Newport has had the opportunity to consider their involvement in the project. We feel this is really important to provide all Newport churches with the opportunity to be informed and involved, as the project will only succeed with the support of the local churches. We can then look to advertise the role with input from the steering team on the job description. Ideally this project will start in the autumn of 2023.

Can I, as a church, join this project at a later point?

Of course! The success of this project depends on the involvement of Newport churches, so the project will not be closed to future involvement of other churches.

Who can I contact if I have any further questions about this project or would like to pledge support to this project?

Ian Peters, Director of Isle of Wight Youth for Christ

Tony Murphy, Chair of Churches Working Together in Newport (CWTN)

Has a steering team already been formed and who's on it?

A steering team is in the early forming stages, representatives from a number of Newport churches have been put forward to pray and explore the possibility of a Newport Youth Project. So far this team has included:

Bethany Evangelical Church - Paul Crago

Castlehold Baptist Church - Adrian Redfearn

Church on the Roundabout - Tony Murphy/ Jane Griffiths

Gunville Methodist Church - Paul Wells/John Izzard

Isle of Wight Youth For Christ - Ian Peters
Newport Congregational Church - Denise Evans
Newport Methodist Church - Bill Bates
Revive Newport - Pete Luther
True Vine Church - Michael Parsons

(Some churches have more than one representative to ensure that at least one individual can make any steering team meetings).

The door is fully open to new Newport churches and representatives - we would love as many Newport churches as possible to be involved in this project.

Who are Isle of Wight Youth for Christ?

Isle of Wight Youth for Christ is an island-wide youth work ministry. Our goal is to communicate the amazing message of Jesus Christ as saviour, to every young person on the island in a relevant way. We are a local independent charity, launched in 2000. The registered charity is overseen and governed by a board of Trustees, consisting of members with various church backgrounds and each bringing valuable experience and expertise.

The day to day work is carried out by our dedicated Core Team which is made up of an army of legendary volunteers, a wonderful administrator, area youth workers, trainee youth workers, year out students and all overseen by our 2 directors.