

Minutes from Regional Gathering November 22nd 2025

Growing together: embracing families, young people & children in our meetings.

30 of us from Pendle Hill, Hardshaw and Mann, Manchester and Warrington, East Cheshire, Wirral and Chester, and Lancashire Central & North Area Meetings have met today at Stockport Meeting House to consider what Quakers need to be doing across the North West to improve work with children, young people, and families.

We have reviewed what we do already – whether Sunday morning children and young people's meetings, Summer School, Teenage General Meeting, Yealand, all age residential events or other **opportunities and events**.

We have heard from Jo Baynham and Kirsty Philbrick of Quaker Life about activities being undertaken by paid children and young people's development workers in other parts of the Yearly Meeting

We ask Paul Andrews (Lancashire Central and North), Rose Oliver (East Cheshire), Andrew Backhouse (East Cheshire) and Valerie Clark (Manchester & Warrington) to form a threshing group to produce a spirit led vision of what a paid children's and young people's development worker will bring to our region alongside a proposed, more detailed job description, costs, management & funding model to present to our Area Meetings, as soon as they are able, in 2026.

There was a clear leading from this group that the main focus would be on families and children. The threshing group must look to involve input from young people and may co-opt other Friends as led.

We hope Friends will build on the connections they have made today.

We thank Jo, Kirsty and East Cheshire CYPC for their work in bringing this together and Stockport Friends for hosting us.

Anna Aiston – Clerk for this meeting