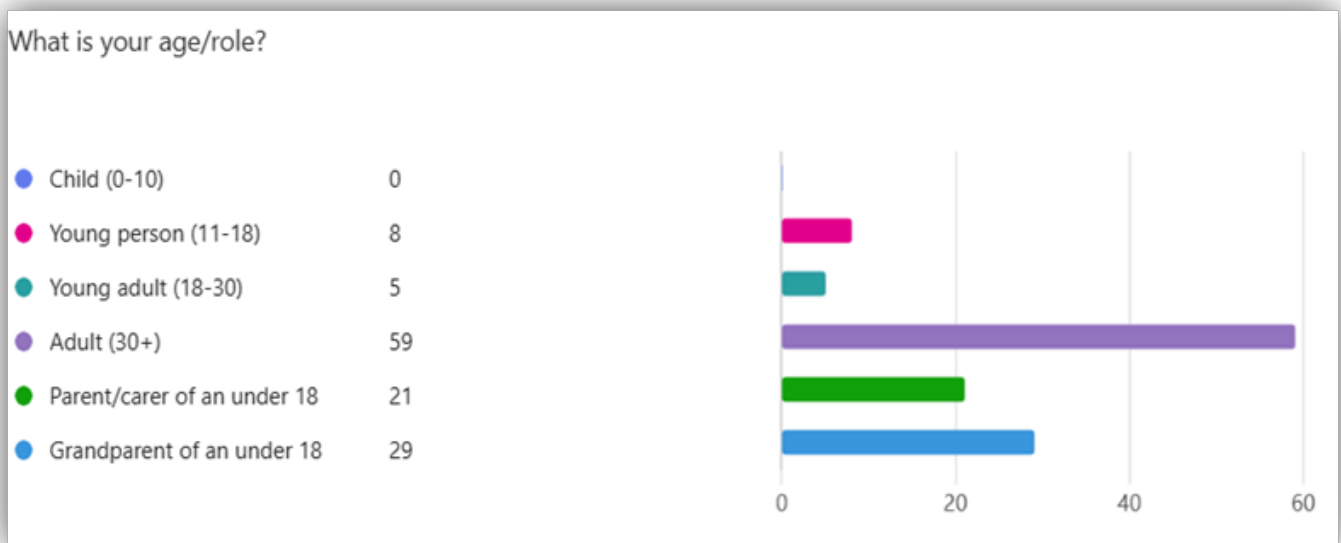


Results from our Children and Young People's Development Worker for the North West Survey

11th February 2026

There were more than 100 responses which from Friends across all 6 Area Meetings. Lots of potential ideas for the work were raised and some practical considerations and concerns which the threshing group are now working with as we work out a proposal to share with Friends across the NW soon.

Who responded to the questionnaire?



Key Themes emerging across the 100+ responses

A Children's and Young People's Development Worker should:

- **Enable**, not replace, volunteers.
- **Connect** young people and families across the NW.
- **Strengthen** existing good practice (children's meetings, camps, residential).
- **Reach out** into schools and communities.
- **Support parents**, not only children.
- **Build consistency** across meetings.
- **Offer flexible, varied provision** that recognises different local needs.

And support Quakers to offer activities which are:

- Regular and reliable.
- Varied to suit different ages and interests.
- Accessible in timing (not just Sunday mornings).
- Welcoming to newcomers and non-Quakers.
- Designed to build long-term community and spiritual growth.

In more detail, Friends felt:

1. A CYP Development Worker could work with them to offer the following:

Children & Family Activities

- Regular children's meetings, including weekly provision rather than occasional or monthly.
- Mid-week toddler/parent-carer groups open to the community.
- All-age events (family days, picnics, intergenerational sessions).
- All-age learning and spiritual development sessions.
- Travelling children's meetings visiting different LMs across the region.

Youth & Teen Activities (11–18)

- More youth residentials (like Yealand, Summer School, TGM).
- Monthly teenage meetings or similar peer-group spaces.
- Energetic outdoor activities (cycling, hiking, adventure days).
- Social meet-ups and regional youth groups.
- Spaces outside Sunday mornings (evenings, after school, weekends).

Young Adult (18–30)

- Connecting Young adults to regional meet-ups.
- Support connecting isolated young adult Friends to others
- pathways from teenagers to adult groups.

Support for Local Meetings

- Help to start or sustain children's meeting provision.
- Training, resources, and safeguarding guidance for volunteers.
- Signposting ready-made session plans and "off-the-shelf" activity packs.
- Help coordinating and reinvigorating existing groups.

Supporting Quakers with Outreach activities like

- Workshops in schools on Quaker values/peace/mediation.
- Presence at community events, festivals, Freshers fairs.
- Social media and relevant communication to reach families and young people.

2. Ideas about how the role should work

Friends suggested the worker could:

- Act as a connector between LMs, AMs, existing youth networks (Summer School, Teenage General Meeting).
- Support volunteers with training, safeguarding, emotional support, practical resources, and confidence-building.
- Provide governance clarity and liaise with existing structures like Local Development Workers.

- **Coordinate outreach into schools, universities, youth groups, interfaith settings.**
- **Model high-quality practice and strengthen long-term sustainability.**
- **Help build community across the large NW region.**

3. Concerns and challenges raised

Practical / Structural Concerns

- **Huge area may make the role overstretched with a risk of uneven distribution of time between LMs/AMs.**
- **Need for clear management identified. This role would be operationally managed by Quakers in Britain and accountable to a regional support group of local Friends who will help plan the work.**
- **Differing needs between different area and local meetings and age groups**
- **Importance of activities being accessible and inclusive (disability, neurodiversity, affordability, transport).**

Financial Concerns

- **Affordability, value for money for AMs and worries about long-term sustainability beyond initial funding.**