

Youth Services Board – Update 5
Friday 24th April 2009
St. Chad's Cathedral
Time: 6:00pm

In Attendance:

Bishop W. Kenney, Father Michael White, Carmel Keane, Helen Bardy, Cathy Clement, Emily Clark.

1) Opening Prayer:

Bishop Kenney opened the meeting with a prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) Apologies:

Father Paul Moss, John Farrell, Andy Quinn, Teresa Kehoe.

3) Minutes:

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted by those present.

4) Archbishop's Appointment & Consequences:

With the appointment of His Grace to Westminster, the Archdiocese of Birmingham will be run by an 'administrator' appointed by the Chapter. Church Law states that the *Administrator* cannot 'innovate', but can only continue established practices. This will affect the work of the youth services board. It also means that the new Archbishop may come into the Diocese with little knowledge of our youth ministry. It was suggested that our proposals should be made with this in mind and explain all our options and choices with a form of options appraisal.

5) Trust Status Update & Draft Objects:

Fr. Michael questioned whether or not the Board could still push for the Trust to be set up. The Board needs to investigate the current situation, to be sure of what can and can't be done.

6) Director's Job Description & Person Spec:

Helen Bardy questioned whether the YSB are looking for a Director of Youth Services or a Project Manager, who would put forward a plan and a way of reducing losses. Bishop Kenney pointed out that management skills are a necessity, to deal with the financial loss of £70K (joint losses of Alton, Soli and BCYS).

7) Constitution:

Cathy shared the draft constitution with those present, pointing out that grant giving bodies will rarely give support to organisations solely promoting faith. At the same time many trust deeds are general and sometimes vague and our facilities are often used by other groups. Cathy put forward three objects: i) working with young people in a holistic way ii) young people in Catholic institutions iii) vulnerable young people

8) The Future

In the meantime, we need to encourage the youth services to operate within their means since any further losses could impact negatively on future youth ministry plans. This needs to be discussed with Fr John Carlyle and those responsible within the youth services.

In response to demands in Oxon, Fr Michael suggested appointing someone to the Oxfordshire post and possibly Birmingham, a part-time post as a 'stop gap'. Bishop Kenney will speak to John Carlyle with regards to appointing a full time worker in Oxfordshire (job description liable to change).

The job description for the Oxfordshire post, with suggested alterations, needs to be looked at and integrated with current job descriptions. Fr Michael will ask Peter Lucas (Staffordshire BCYS) to look at it, as well as investigating the implications of making appointments in Oxfordshire and Birmingham. Bishop Kenney would like the job description and advert for Oxfordshire to be approved at the next meeting of the Board, so as to have them in place by September 2009.

9) A.O.B

The YSB Mission Statement will be looked at during the next meeting, as will the Director of Youth Services post. Cathy and Helen spoke about their desire to look into some funding opportunities for the youth service. Bishop Kenney asked them to create a sub-committee, which Cathy Clement will chair. The purpose of this sub-committee will be to explore fundraising and possibly find a volunteer fundraiser to work for the YSB.

Some staff within our youth services are concerned about their posts; we thank them for their patience. All members spoke of their respect for the good work that continues and apologise for not being able to give definite timelines or answers. It is one of the difficulties of, on the one hand, being transparent, and on the other hand not having the authority to make decisions.

Fr Michael will contact Sandra Satchell (Director of SPEC, Westminster Diocese) to arrange for members of YSB to visit.

Emily requested feedback on the proposed Youth Services Prayer. Helen Bardy will put together a portfolio to follow the YSB's progress, which will be given to the new Archbishop of Birmingham when he is appointed.