

 Central England Quakers

Thank You

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Welcome!

Thank you for offering to work with or to continue your work with our children and young people within the Children’s Meeting and other activities. Your interest in supporting the spiritual development of these important members of our Worshipping Community is very much needed and appreciated.

# Introduction

‘*Rejoice in the presence of children and young people in your meeting and recognise the gifts they bring. Remember that the meeting as a whole shares responsibility for every child in its care.*

*Seek for them as for yourself a full development of God’s gifts and the abundant life Jesus tells us can be ours.*

*How do you share your deepest beliefs with them, while leaving them free to develop as the spirit of God may lead them? Do you invite them to share their insights with you?*

*Are you ready both to learn from them and to accept your responsibilities towards them?’* *Advices and queries 19.*

Working with our children and young people is both a joyful and inspiring experience, and a great responsibility.

As a helper in Children’s Meeting you will not usually be expected to lead on the structure and content of the meeting, but anything you do wish to contribute will be warmly welcomed.

You may find inspiration in the series ‘Journeys in the Spirit’ on the website of Britain Yearly Meeting: [www.quaker.org.uk/children-and-young-people/work-quaker-setting](http://www.quaker.org.uk/children-and-young-people/work-quaker-setting). These resources include a booklet about working with children 0-4 years old, and resources for 5-10 year olds and for young people over 11 years.

Part of our responsibility towards children and young people in our Meeting is to protect them from harm, and to be alert to indications that they may have suffered harm, or be at risk of doing so.

The first step in this process is to take what steps we can to ensure that the people entrusted with the care of our children in Meeting are safe and suitable people. We do this by undertaking a criminal records check with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and by renewing this every three years, and by taking up two references.

The second step is by being thoughtful about how we arrange events for children, to provide protection built into our structures.

The third step is by being vigilant for signs that a child is not happy for any reason, or signs that they may be being harmed or at risk. Our Safeguarding Policy contains guidance on this, and a summary of that policy is contained in this pack.

# Application Process

1. Please complete the Application Form contained within this pack, and provide the names and contact details of two people who can give you a reference. It is important that one of the referees is from outside Quakers – your line manager if you currently work with children or vulnerable adults, or another person who knows you well. Ideally, the other referee will be from within the Quaker community.
2. The next thing we will ask you to do is undertake a criminal records check with the Disclosure and Barring Service. If you have a single conviction or caution from several years ago, it may be ‘filtered’, which means it will no longer appear on a DBS check, and cannot be taken into consideration in relation to your suitability to work with children. You can check out whether or not your conviction/caution would be filtered by looking here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-filtering-guidance/dbs-filtering-guide>
3. If you have a conviction or caution which would not be ‘filtered’, this does not necessarily mean that you cannot work with children, as each situation is individually assessed on a confidential basis by the Safeguarding Officer for Britain Yearly Meeting. Please complete the Self-Declaration Form and return it in a separate envelope, which will be sent to the Area Meeting Safeguarding Officer to begin that process.

**If you have no convictions or cautions, you do not need to complete the Self-Declaration Form.**