

## Sample Outline for an initial meeting of a Partnership Youth Ministry Group Or for a time of reflection

### Opening Prayer

### Introductions

Welcome the group which brings together representatives from each church in the partnership. It is important that everyone feels comfortable. If appropriate ask everyone to share their name and something about themselves. Give a brief explanation of the background to the group.

### Sharing

Take some time for the representatives to share with each other. If the group is large this can be in twos or threes. Some questions could be:

Complete the sentence: Youth Ministry is...

Something I believe about young people is...

What would you love to see happen in our Partnership with/for young people by this time next year?

What do you feel this group can achieve?

Who has encouraged you on your faith journey and how?

What gifts do you bring to this journey with young people?

You may wish to ask everyone to write their responses to the first 4 questions on post-it notes so that the ideas can be collated and shared afterwards.

### Groups

Working in small groups with flip chart paper and marker pens, write down a sentence or two to capture the purpose of the group. Two 'vision' statements' from groups in our diocese are given here as examples.

### Examples of vision statements

#### Pontop Partnership

Our Role:

To develop partnership between adults and young people on behalf of our parish communities...to champion the cause of youth ministry by combining the creativity of young people with the support of adults and 'making things happen'.

#### Tynemouth Priory Partnership

*"In working with young people do not try to call them back to where they were and do not call them to where you are as beautiful a place as that may seem to you. You must have the courage to go with them to a place neither you nor they have been before" V.J. Donovan*

Mission statement: "To work with our young people supporting, nourishing, encouraging and empowering them on our shared journey in faith."

### **Feedback**

Share the responses and together decide on your vision statement.

### **Planning**

How can we communicate this statement to our Partnership?

How can we encourage other parishioners to be involved and delegate roles to them?

When will the group next meet? What will be our agenda?

### **Closing Prayer**

Time to pray is essential. This makes us pause and remember we are on a journey together.

Take turns to prepare the closing prayer for the meetings. If the initial meeting is over a longer period of time, share with each other some thoughts on prayer e.g.

- For me, some favourite ways to pray are...
- It helps me to pray when...
- A piece of scripture that is very meaningful to me is... because...



Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle