

Child Protection Committee

PART A: REPORT

Achievements/Activities

1. We attended most AYM Children and JYF Committee meetings as the wellbeing of our children and JYFs is the central focus of both Committees
2. We provided consultation on child safety for Quaker events involving children and JYFs (e.g., the newly begun JackBox games, the upcoming Easter Family Gathering).
3. Since our last report we have held 3 zoom meetings with the Child Protection Contact Friends (CPCFs) around Australia. These attend to any issues which the CPCFs wish to raise, and we have a focus topic or scenario (e.g., when a Regional Meeting is planning a Christmas event, what might be the role of the CPCF?). These meetings have led to some very lively discussions. The discussions are certainly helpful to our understanding of how child safety is approached in various Regional Meetings, provides us with some feedback on where the Policy and Procedures need clarity or change. We believe the sessions are informative for the CPCFs as they undertake their important roles and that we are building a sense of community around the country between Contact Friends.
4. We aim to provide support to the AYM Secretary and the Child Protection Contact Friends, if needed, when the annual Child Protection audit is due.
5. We are currently redrafting the current Child Protection Policy and Procedures. We are trying to simplify them where possible, so that they are easier to refer to and use. We had hoped to have them ready to send out with DIA, but this has not been possible. A draft will be completed by YM 2023.
6. We discussed within our Committee the potential benefit of an umbrella network of Committees and Friends within AYM (being referred to as *Quaker Life*) concerned with nurturing the wellbeing of all in our Quaker community.

Issues/Analysis

1. Some Regional/Local Meetings have not 'recovered' their community of JYFs and children post-Covid. Understandably, this can make the Child Protection procedures seem irrelevant. The framework is in place so that Friends are in a position to safely welcome families, new or returning, whenever that may occur.
2. We would like to encourage Friends to familiarise themselves with the current [Policy](#). The safety and wellbeing of all, including Children and JYFs, is the responsibility of the whole Quaker community, not just designated Child Protection Contact Friends. We are aware that some Friends may find the Child Protection Policy and Procedures onerous. However, they are one of the important aspects of providing a safe and welcoming community for families, children and JYFs.

Lorraine Thomson and Ronis Chapman will lay their roles as co-conveners down as soon as new conveners are found.

PART B: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

None.

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