Elders Function Description

In recent years, there has been a committee of elders at YM events. Their role is to monitor Meetings for Worship, and thereby, the spiritual sense of the YM. The Elders also are visibly present during business sessions, and would assist the Clerk in maintaining the discipline and tenor of the meeting, if necessary. The Clerk may look to them for advice.

Traditionally, the convenor of the host Meeting's Elders committee has convened this group. Somewhat varying ways have been used to nominate the Elders for the YM event. Some preparatory materials are usually distributed to YM Elders, and there are usually one or several meetings of the group during the YM event.

If the host RM found itself particularly stretched for local Friends to take on roles in planning, it is imaginable that negotiations could be held with another RM for a non-local to take on this role. The role might return to the hosting meeting another YM. Since almost none of the role depends on local factors, such as the venue, this solution should be perfectly workable.

Workload of the function

Time Interval	**Tasks**	**Workload**
12 months prior to YM start	Ensure someone on the Planning Committee is the Elders contact Person	
6 months prior to YM start	Develop approach of how eldering will be done at this YM. Liaise with RMs about who are their elders. Develop explanations of eldering role, as it is planned.	20 hours
1 month prior to YM start	Distribute eldering plans to all to be involved.	20 hours
1 week prior to YM start	Ensure that each person knows how elders will operate, what they're responsible for, when they will meet. Inform Elders of the Planning Committee Contact Person. If this person will not be available at YM ensure there is a replacement.	5 hours
First 2 days of YM	Convene a meeting of elders	3 hours
Whole of YM	Meet as necessary. Appoint an Elder to take notes. Monitor how eldering aspects	Several hours

	are working. Seek to find general agreement on where Elders sit in the meeting, noting that particular clerks may have a different preference. Liaise with AYM officers and others, if necessary to initiate changes. Liaise with Children & JYFs leaders about final worship session.	
1 month after YM	Contribute to YM report.	4 hours
Overall workload:	Light	
Skills required to undertake this function	Liaise with other people. Be aware of spiritual aspects of such a gathering. Understand how intervention might be needed in a Business Meeting, which is not going well.	
This functions works most closely with:	YM Convenor, other elders, Children and young people's coordinator	