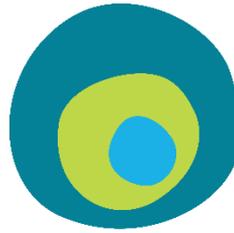


Britain Yearly Meeting and Woodbrooke working in partnership

April 28th 2020



Dear Friends in Wales,

Re: **Expressions of interest in Local Development Work and a Hub**

I am writing to let you know the outcome of considerations on the locations for the next group of local development workers, and for the pilot hub for Britain Yearly Meeting and Woodbrooke staff.

This is to bring several meetings and groups in Wales up to date. We had expressions of interest from the following six groups. The expressions of interest ranged from discerned minutes in a business meeting to the thoughts of a role holder. They were mainly asking to be considered as a hub, although also gave thought to local development input.

- Southern Marches AM, Abergavenny LM
- South Wales Area Meeting
- Pales LM
- Meeting of Friends in Wales
- Llandrindod Local Quaker Meeting,
- Cardiff Local Meeting

As you know, Wales and Southern Marches already have a local development worker, Helen Oldridge. However, there were some ideas in the expressions of interest which Helen may be able to help people to take forwards.

There were a number of ideas about a hub in Wales where staff from BYM and Woodbrooke could work, and possibly be co-located with other Quaker employees, or staff from like-minded organisations.

As you know, the idea of a hub is new for BYM and Woodbrooke, and the first hub will be a pilot. Some work has been done over the last couple of years exploring Cardiff Meeting House as a possible hub. However, both the decision making, and the time to carry out decisions, meant that Cardiff is not ready to be the pilot hub at this time.

Other suggestions for a hub did not give enough benefit to BYM as a whole, as they were not accessible enough for a significant number of Quakers in Britain.

However, there are several ideas emerging from the expressions of interest which I would be happy to pursue with yourselves. Hopefully these could capture the enthusiasm, further

meet the needs of friends in Wales and nearby and bring the centrally managed work of BYM and Woodbrooke closer.

For the next group of local development workers, we have been looking to identify places where someone coming into post within a year would be able to establish themselves quickly, and could make an early, positive impact. We have also been mindful of the guidance from Quaker Life Central Committee to continue to develop our presence further afield from London and Birmingham, and to cover all three nations within our Yearly Meeting.

For that reason, it has been agreed that the next cohort of local development workers will cover Scotland; the North-East of England and the parts of Cumbria covered by Cumberland Area Meeting; Yorkshire; and East Anglia. We had hoped that those staff would take up their roles in September, but the current public health situation means we now expect this to happen in the first quarter of 2021.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to share with you the decision that has been made on the hub for staff. All the locations put forward by Friends were assessed against the same criteria. These included transport connections, accessibility, other practical considerations like internet connectivity and space for staff and equipment, readiness, the flexibility of the space – and of course, the ability to make an early, positive difference to the local Quaker community.

Taking all these criteria into account, 188A Woodhouse Lane, Leeds, an office suite attached to Leeds Carton Hill Meeting House, has been chosen as the preferred hub location. We're saying 'preferred location' because we still need to do some work to ensure the hub will work as expected for Friends in Leeds and the wider region, as well as for BYM and Woodbrooke. That work will take place over the coming months.

As you know, the hub is intended to be a pilot. We hope it will bring something new and different to BYM and Woodbrooke's way of working, and that Friends across the country will help make it a success. We'll evaluate its impact before deciding whether to roll out more hubs in future.

Letters are being sent today to all Friends who expressed an interest in hosting a local development worker or hub, telling them the outcome of the process.

The news will be shared more widely in the 30 April edition of Quake!

Thank you again for engaging with this important work, and I look forward to being in touch in the future.

In friendship, Mewn cyfeillgarwch,

Rachel

She/her; hi/ei

Rachel Matthews

Head of Local Development

Pennaeth Datblygiad Lleol

<https://www.facebook.com/Vibrancy-in-Meetings-Quakers-in-Britain-482765148761447/>

I work from home in Cardigan. However, the phone numbers below come straight through to me, despite the landline looking as though it is in London.

Dw I'n gweithio adre yn Aberteifi. (Hapus iawn!) Sut bynnag, mae y rhif ffon yn dod I fi, er gwaethaf mae e'n weld am rhif Llundain. (Hapus i clywed am camgymeriadau, dysgwraig ydwi)

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