

HOW

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

IS WORKING WITH

The **Methodist** Church 

Action for Children report for Bolton & Rochdale Methodist District Synod 2017

Action for Children is pleased to provide this report to the Synod and trust you would give thanks to God on our behalf. For almost 148 years, Action for Children has been working with the Methodist Church, and we are extremely proud of this strong partnership. Our Methodist friends raise thousands of pounds each year for our work. With your support, we have been able to make a difference to so many disadvantaged children, young people and their families in the District and across the nations.

Many churches in the Bolton & Rochdale District tirelessly support us through Count Your Blessings during Lent, Action for Children Sunday, League of Light Home Collecting Boxes and Christmas collections, as well as donating gifts in kind such as toys particularly around Christmas time. On behalf of each child in whose life we have made a difference, thank you.

How Action for Children works: the new brand

After many months of planning, we launched our new brand on 16 January 2017: How Action for Children works. Our ambition is to ensure that any child who needs help gets help; we will do what's right for children, do what's needed and do what works for children. This new brand will help us increase public support by raising awareness of the issues children face, what Action for Children does and how we make a difference. The more people understand our work, the more people support it. And the more people support it, the more children we can help.

We are redesigning our fundraising products and other worship material, and will be able to provide these to churches in the District shortly. If churches need fundraising material before then, they can contact their community fundraiser for help and advice (details below).



Our Methodist partnership

Methodist Conference President and Vice President visit

We were delighted to receive a visit from Revd. Roger Walton and Rachel Lampard (President and vice president of Conference 2016-17) at two of our services in London. They visited Hackney Young Carers Project and Camden Short Breaks. Hackney Young Carers Project

Do what's right for children. Do what's needed. Do what works.



supports young carers aged from 8 to 18 who look after or help look after a family member who is unwell or disabled. Camden Short Breaks provides short breaks and support for disabled children and young people so that they can learn new skills, and make friends outside the home, while also giving the family a break.

We congratulate Revd Walton and Mrs Lampard on a peaceful and productive year, and look forward to working with the incoming president and vice president.

Connecting Disciples workshops

Action for Children colleagues will be presenting two workshops at Connecting Disciples in March and June. These workshops give an overview of the work that Action for Children does with children, youth and families to tackle neglect (7 March) and mental health problems among young people (June). We will also be having a market stall where you can meet with our Head of Church Partnerships, Karis Kolawole. Karis will also be at the Methodist Women in Britain Residential Weekend March 2017

Action for Children Sunday

Action for Children Sunday is designated by the Methodist Church as one of its special Sundays - a time to reflect on and celebrate the work of its Children's Charity. It is celebrated on the second Sunday in July, as this is closest to the anniversary of our founding on 9 July 1869. Action for Children Sunday 2017 is on Sunday 9 July and the theme will be confirmed soon.

League of Light



We are still promoting our League of Light home collection boxes and hope to use them to raise even more in 2017/18. Our new League of Light poster is now available too! If you would like to become a Home Collection Box Secretary for your church or to request any materials, please contact your local fundraiser on 01925 850856.

Home Collection Boxes & the change in £1 Coin

As you are aware, 28 March will see the introduction of a new £1 coin and the legal tender status of the round £1 coin will be withdrawn on 15 October 2017. What does this mean for Action for Children and our Home Collection and Counter Collection Boxes?

1. The new £1 Coin is a fantastic opportunity to encourage people to donate their first £1 to Action for Children. We will be running an online campaign on our Facebook pages encouraging people to donate their **#First£1**. Your local fundraiser can also supply you with posters so you can encourage others to do the same.

2. After 15 October 2017 people will no longer be able to spend the round £1 coins – so if you know anyone who has any leftover coins encourage them to put them in their collection box.
3. HSBC (who hold Action for Children's bank accounts) have yet to announce a deadline for when they will cease to accept the round £1 coin. This means that for the foreseeable future you will still be able to bank any £1 coins you find when you are emptying and banking the collections. Please note these will need to be bagged separately from the new 12-sided £1 coins as they weigh different amounts.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact your local fundraiser.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and hard work managing the collections. The money you raise enables Action for Children to do what's right for children, do what's needed and do what works.

Legacies

Leaving a gift in your will is a wonderful way to make a real and lasting difference to disadvantaged children. If anyone would like more information on leaving a legacy or any materials to display to promote our legacy campaign, please contact your local fundraiser or e-mail the legacies team: legacies@actionforchildren.org.uk.



Current campaigns

We campaign for changes that make life better for vulnerable children and young people. Adding your voice to our campaigns helps us make change happen faster. With your help, we can really turn up the volume and make our voices heard by the people with the power to change things!

Fair by Five

The first five years of a child's life are crucial. However, children from low-income backgrounds only have a 50/50 chance of being ready for school at age five. It is time the Government improved these odds.

Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness

Jo Cox, the MP, identified loneliness as a serious problem in her constituency and set out to investigate what could be done. After her death last year, the project she started was carried on by her colleagues and renamed The Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness. Action for Children is proud to be leading the Commission's work on children and families. To find out more information and sign up, visit www.actionforchildren.org.uk/news-and-blogs/policy-updates/2017/january/fighting-loneliness-as-part-of-the-jo-cox-loneliness-commission/.

End Child Poverty

Low-income families are really feeling the pinch and are often forced to pay the most for basic essentials. Stretched incomes mean that they are forced to make impossible choice for their children – between healthy meals, warm clothes and heating the home. We need to act now – the first step is for children’s benefits to be unfrozen and to end the unfair poverty premium so that parents can afford the essentials every family needs.

For more info about our current campaigns and how you can help visit www.actionforchildren.org.uk/how-to-help/support-our-campaigns.

Events

Morecambe Bay Sponsored Walk

Saturday 20th May 12.30pm

Join us on this unique walk, crossing the treacherous sands of the bay with the Queens Guide to the Sands. A cross bay walk from Arnside to Kents Bank with refreshments at Abbot Hall Hotel after the walk. Enjoy the stunning scenery and panoramic views of the Southern Lakes area. For more details contact the North West Fundraising Team on 01925 850856.



2017 Simplyhealth Great North Run

Action for Children has a number of guaranteed places in this year’s Great North Run, the biggest half marathon in the world. This iconic event begins in central Newcastle and the 13.1-mile route takes in some of the North East’s most iconic sites like Tyne Bridge, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art and The Sage Gateshead before finishing on the South Tyneside Coast.

If you or anyone you know would like to join our team of running stars visit www.actionforchildren.org.uk/greatnorthrun to register or call 0191 261 0030 for more info.

Thank you

To all the churches in the Bolton & Rochdale Methodist District who have supported Action for Children through Home Collection Boxes, Action for Children Sunday, Christmas and other collections and fundraising activities.

Your support means the world to the children and young people we help. Our services are a lifeline for vulnerable children and their families and your generosity means we can give them a brighter future.

Action for Children Services in the Bolton & Rochdale District

- Bolton Children's Rights
- Wigan Parental Outreach
- Wigan Family Support

For further information about these services, please contact the team below.

North West Team contact details

Fundraisers:

Alysha Lawlor - alysha.lawlor@actionforchildren.org.uk
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