

By giving a good report

Report

Bolton & Rochdale

Autumn 2017

Introduction

It is our pleasure to present this update on our work. It has been a remarkable year for us, and we celebrate our achievements with gratitude to God. We acknowledge the Methodist Church as a source of encouragement and practical support. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We are keen to connect with your District and local communication leads, so that we can regularly tell you about our work through your church bulletins, magazines and social media platforms. Please get in touch with me if you can be of help.

Action for Children works by ensuring that every child who needs help, gets help – your support means a lot.

Karis Kolawole
Head of Church Partnerships
07834 334 634
karis.kolawole@actionforchildren.org.uk

By making an impact nationally

Royal visit

We were honoured to welcome Her Royal Highness Duchess of Cambridge to our Wales services during her first visit as Royal Patron. She met children, young people, parents and foster carers who told her how Action for Children has helped to change their lives.

Methodist Conference

Our Chief Executive, Sir Tony Hawkhead, was warmly welcomed at the Methodist Conference where he spoke about our achievements and aspirations. There was positive response to our work especially around mental health, safeguarding and how we supported families affected by the Grenfell Tower disaster.

Methodist interns join Action for Children

We are delighted to welcome Hannah John and Dean Pettipher, interns on the ONE Programme, who will work with us for a year. Hannah joins our Policy Team while Dean will work with HR and Communications. We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to their development and to benefit from the skills they bring.

Join us in praying for them and other interns as they embark on this exciting journey.

Royal Mail partnership

We have secured a three-year partnership with Royal Mail, which will raise at least £2 million to invest in a preventative, schools-based, mental health programme for 15-18 year olds in the UK. Over Christmas, you may notice Royal Mail promoting Action for Children.

CTE Body in Association

This year, Churches Together in England (CTE) made Action for Children a Body in Association. Through CTE, we hope to build more partnerships with churches and other Christian organisations to help many more children, young people and families in local communities.

By campaigning for change and influencing policy

We published a report, **Revolving Door**, which found that over 140,000 vulnerable children were being left without support. This means that someone was worried enough about a child to make their concern formal, but that child's situation wasn't deemed bad enough to qualify them for some extra help. Our report garnered widespread media coverage with our CEO being interviewed across the BBC. The report is here: actionforchildren.org.uk/what-we-do/policy-and-research/support-for-children-and-families/revolving-door/ and a blog about it is here: actionforchildren.org.uk/news-and-blogs/policy-updates/2017/august/revolving-door-are-vulnerable-children-overlooked/

After a hugely successful launch of the **Secret Life of Us campaign**, the Disabled Children's Partnership, of which Action for Children is a founding member, is entering its second phase. DCP exists to address the unacceptable contrast between the quality of life and the opportunities available to disabled children and their families, compared to those without disabilities. We'll be meeting politicians at Party Conferences and hopefully sharing our ambition for better health and social care support in Parliament. To find out more, visit disabledchildrenspartnership.org.uk

We're also gearing up our work on the **first five years** of children's lives. We believe that children are at risk of falling behind and that the Government needs to invest in the early years to give all children the best start in life. Watch this space!

By raising funds to provide children and families with the support they need

Liverpool District raised a remarkable £12,401. We are grateful to everyone who played a role in raising these funds which included church collections, home collecting boxes, sponsored walks and much much more.

Great Night Outdoors launch

We are launching the Action for Children Great Night Outdoors very soon, and would love you and your churches to take part. Great Night Outdoors asks our supporters to spend an evening under the stars (or in your church hall) to experience for one night, how homeless people live their lives.

Right now, over 80,000 young people in the UK are homeless. Our work helps prevent vulnerable people from becoming homeless, providing a safe and stable home for our children and their families. Your support will help us to continue this work, and more, across the country. You can pre-register to receive our free fundraising pack in October. Visit actionforchildren.org.uk/greatnightout or call your local fundraiser to pre-register.

A plea

We are looking for a new District Advocate to represent the Bolton & Rochdale District. The role involves communicating and reaching out to all the churches to engage them with our work and to ensure that they are kept informed of our latest projects, campaigns, fundraising events, etc. To find out more, please contact your local fundraiser.

Christmas

Various resources to help churches plan fundraising events over Christmas will soon be available on our website and to order from your local fundraiser, including a worship booklet, which consists of a service outline churches can adapt; activities for children to get creative; a nativity drama, and a Christmas carol.

Our Christmas card brochure and the Big Christmas card are available too. The brochure has a beautiful selection of packs of cards. If you would prefer a more environmentally-friendly option, you could order a Big Christmas card; it is an A3 poster that you can hang on your church or office wall. You, your family and friends can add your Christmas wishes, and donate to Action for Children for each message.

Action for Children in Bolton

Bolton Children's Rights and Advocacy Service

We have developed an innovative approach that ensures children and young people who are subject to a child protection plan are listened to. We engage with them and support them to be able to contribute towards their plans. We do this because we know it provides better outcomes.

Date for your diary

Wednesday 6 December, 7pm
Action for Children Christmas Concert

Join us for our annual celebration of this special season at the beautiful Liverpool Cathedral. Primary School choirs will be joined by a band and we will also sing congregational carols, one of which by candlelight.

Tickets - Adults £8, Concessions £5. Available from the Cathedral shop or your local fundraiser.

From all of our staff and everyone who uses our services, we wish you a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Contact Details

Your local fundraiser is:

Helen.Noble@actionforchildren.org.uk
01925 850856

Action for Children North West Fundraising
501 Birchwood One
Dewhurst Road
Birchwood
Warrington
Cheshire
WA3 7GB

actionforchildren.org.uk



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