# District Leadership Team

**Summary of meeting held on 30 September 2021**

**Present:**

Leslie Newton, Chair of District

Beverley Duffy, Lay Stationing Representative

Andrew Brown, District Property Secretary

Alister McClure, Methodist Council Representative (via Zoom)

Malcolm Lucas, District Treasurer

Nic Bentley, Grants Officer

Emma Crippen, Synod Secretary

Siân Henderson, District Administrator

Naomi Prince, Youth Representative

**Apologies:**

Neville Simpson, Deputy Chair

**Updates from previous meeting**

Updates were received on

* Unconscious Bias Training
* Synod representation from circuits
* Autumn synod feedback
* World Church links with Kenya
* District communications
* Trustee responsibility for safeguarding

**Noting of decisions made by email since last meeting**

* Wellbeing officer appointment approval
* Cease worship, Hampsthwaite
* Cease worship, Rainton
* Central York, £35k grant for building work from the City Centre Fund

**Kairos Circuit**

* The circuit was formally instituted on 1 September and has been promised Connexional funding of £140k over five years. Launch events have taken place and positive feedback was heard from members who attended.

**Stationing 2022**

* An update was provided

**Candidates**

* There are no candidates this year from the district

**Circuit reconfiguration**

* Conversations between Hull (Centre & West) and Beverley continue

**Circuit Support Team**

* Updates on the work of Heather Shipman, David Perry, and Adele Borrowman were received and a discussion on future staffing took place.

**District Safeguarding Group**

* Revd Tanya Short has been appointed as the Independent Chair of the DSG.

**Flourish 21**

* The planning group has re-convened and is seeking to agree a new date with the Spa in Scarborough – either autumn 2022 or spring 2023.

**Wellbeing, and Wellbeing Officer**

* A timetable for recruitment of a part-time wellbeing officer has been agreed with a proposed start date of January 2022. It was agreed that a Wellbeing Group be established within the District to develop proactive support for the wellbeing of ministers, lay employees, and all people who serve the church so faithfully.

**Rural Work**

* The District Rural Officer, Denise Williamson, is drawing together a group of rural enthusiasts to encourage and stimulate an effective response to the particular challenges within rural contexts.

**Homelessness**

* Mark Bevan continues to represent the district in the developing Connexional Homelessness and Housing Gatherings. He is part of work exploring how Methodist/TMCP processes can more nimbly respond to opportunities for sale/lease of premises for social housing. A gathering for people from all contexts within the District to share emerging opportunities for people, and local churches, to be involved in helping to support people the homeless, or those in poor / unstable housing, will be planned for spring 2022.

**Farsi Worker**

* Arman Ghamari began his work in August 2021 and has made a very encouraging and positive start in Hull, Doncaster and Sheffield.

**Trustee matters**

* Trustee forms were completed by those present and information on trusteeship provided.

**Hull International House**

* Reports were received on policy compliance at HIH. Further conversations will take place with the local team.

**Circuit 17**

* It was agreed to appoint a temporary, part-time consultant to prepare for a permanent governance officer appointment. The post will be funded from the DAF.

**University of York Chaplaincy**

* The implications of the loss of the major income stream from ‘York International House’, which funds the District’s support of the Chaplaincy, were considered. Discussions with the York Circuit and ecumenical partners will take place in the light of this.

**New Places for New People, Connexional initiative**

* The Kairos Circuit represents the district’s initiative under “Stage One” of the Connexional NPNP programme. “Stage Two” is the encouragement of projects within the circuits. An amount of £217,246 of Connexional funding has been ring-fenced for the YN&E District and the expectation is that this is matched by funding (or non-monetary resource) from district/circuit/churches over a five year period. This pot of money can also be accessed by *Church at the Margins* projects. It was agreed to establish a district NPNP team, as suggested by the Connexional Team, to be led by David Perry, to coordinate this process and liaise with all parties involved.

**District Advance Fund**

* £102k was brought forward from last year, largely as a result of depressed demand following Covid restrictions. A total of £415k is available for disbursement but no grant applications have been received.
* It was agreed to ringfence £30k for a Circuit 17 consultant
* £200k will be set aside to meet any potential match funding requests from the NPNP initiative
* Net zero grants – it was agreed to consider property requests that support the district’s net zero carbon aims from churches working with Adele Borrowman.