



Department for Children,

Youth and Education

**Sarah Brush**

Diocesan Youth Officer

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The Diocese of Worcester is committed to excellence in its work with young people in accordance with the national Board of Education's new vision for transformation for children, young people and the church in its document *Going for Growth* which was warmly received by the General Synod on Thursday 10th February 2010.

This vision calls the church at national, diocesan and parish level to action in three areas:

**The Church, at national, diocesan and parochial level is called to:**

**increasing the number of children and young people having a life-enhancing encounter with the Christian faith and the person of Jesus Christ.**

**transformation both in the church and the world, recognizing and enabling the capacity of children and young people to be the agents of change.**

**providing professional support and development for all those working with children and young people in the name of the Church, so that they might demonstrate the highest qualities in their practice and personal life.**

The Department for Children, Youth and Education has already structured its development plan for the next three years to reflect these calls to action.

As part of our commitment to supporting them and developing those working with children and young people, the Diocese encourages best practice in the employment of children's, family, community and youth workers. To this aim the Diocese is committed to the national *We Love Our Youth Worker* initiative. The Diocese strongly encourages churches seeking to employ people full or part time to work with children or young people to do so in accordance with best practice and the seven commitments of We Love Our Youth Worker:

### **We Love our Youth Worker**

#### **We will pray and support**

We believe that our youth worker needs spiritual support in their work with young people.

We promise to pray for our youth worker and keep their needs a high priority in the church's prayer life.

#### **We will give space for retreat and reflection**

We believe that taking time to think and pray is just as essential for our youth worker as organising events and meeting young people.

We promise to encourage our youth worker to use part of their schedule to give space for retreat, reflection and personal development.

#### **We will provide ongoing training and development**

We believe that learning the skills of youth work is an ongoing process and that it's important to continually invest in professional development.

We promise to set aside time and money to provide this for our youth worker.

#### **We will give a full day of rest each week**

We believe that taking regular time off helps maintain our youth worker's passion and energy for their work with young people.

We promise to actively encourage our youth worker to take a day away from their role each week to do something different.

#### **We will share responsibility**

We believe that having a youth worker does not release the rest of the church from our responsibilities towards young people.

We promise to encourage everyone to play a part in volunteering, praying for or supporting young people.

#### **We will strive to an excellent employer**

We believe that it's important to have clear structures and procedures for recruiting and employing a youth worker, and to provide supportive management structures.

We promise to follow good practice guidelines in the way we employ our youth worker.

#### **We will celebrate and appreciate**

We believe it's vital to acknowledge what our youth worker is doing and the commitment they have made to work with young people in our church.

We promise to make sure our youth worker knows they are appreciated and we will celebrate their achievements.

In supporting this, the Diocese commits to provide advice and guidance from *Amaze* and other employment specialists, through its children and youth officers to churches seeking to appoint.