



transforming church
for all ages

Steering Group Guide

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The steering group is a key element to a church engaging with the *Today...not tomorrow* resource. It is the group who will collate information following the different parts of the process, and help organise and guide the different activities.

Unless your church does not have any children or young people, it is essential that the steering group is made up of a mixture of ages and reflects, as best as possible, the make-up of your church. We would suggest having a group no larger than twelve individuals, and as a suggestion the group could possibly be broken down as follows:

- Three children
- Three young people
- One adult currently involved in ministry amongst children
- One adult currently involved in ministry amongst young people
- Two members of the church leadership, including the minister if the church has one.
- Two adults not in any form of church leadership or currently involved in ministry amongst children or young people, ideally from different generations.

Working through the [Resource Process and Overview](#) document, you will see the different tasks for the Steering group to take on.

Initially the steering group needs to:

- a finalise the timetable of the Facilitation Day, plan the teaching series and communicate everything out to the church
- b confirm how the church will be informed and kept up-to-date with all that is happening regarding the resource.
- c review and draw together a list of the current ministry taking place amongst children and young people in and through the church.



a Finalise the timetable of the Facilitation Day, plan the teaching series and communicate everything out to the church

The timetable for the how your church will engage with *Today...not tomorrow* is something that needs to be worked out in conjunction with the various other activities and events that are taking place in and through your church.

The way the material has been produced is for the **Facilitation Day** to be the initial event in the process, followed by the **sermons, children and youth sessions**, building up to work on (and acceptance of) the **intergenerational charter**. However it is important that the resource is used in a way that best connects with your local church and therefore you may wish to run into the **Facilitation Day** after the teaching series, for example.

b Confirm how the church will be informed and kept up-to-date with all that is happening regarding the resource

It is essential that the church is not only kept informed about what is taking place in and through *Today...not tomorrow*, but that they are enthused and drawn into the process. To assist in this, we have produced the following resources that can be downloaded from the website www.todaynottomorrow.org.uk:

- **Introductory film**

This has been produced to help raise questions in terms of the current situation within the church and how we need to respond. This could be used to launch the initiative.



- **Posters**

These link to the different topics in the teaching series and can be used when the church is engaging with each of the different topics. There are also blank posters with the *Today...not tomorrow* surround to use to share specific information regarding how your church is engaging in the initiative.

- **Flyer**

This helps share an overview of the initiative and could be printed off to give out so people have something to take away and prompt them about what is coming up.

- **PowerPoint template**

This could be used as you share specific information regarding how your church is engaging in the initiative.



c Review and draw together a list of the current ministry taking place amongst children and young people in and through the church

Begin by brainstorming and listing all the activities and areas of ministry amongst children and young people in which the church is currently involved. These could be events that take place on a weekly, monthly or annual basis. They could run in the church building, in the community or elsewhere in the country. Try also to list other areas where engagement with the children and young people takes place; for example, if the children, young people and adults are all together at the start of the regular Sunday gathering.

It is a good idea to have a flipchart or white board at the front on which the activities and areas can be listed.

Divide into three or four groups, and give each group a selection of the activities/areas listed on the flipchart.

Hand out the [Review question sheets](#) to each subgroup leader, so they have one for each activity/area they are reviewing. Ask them to write the name of the activity/area on the top of each sheet.

At the same time they need to list (on the appropriate form) their thoughts in response to the following:

- 1 When does it take place - day/time/regularity?
- 2 Where does it take place?
- 3 Who is it aimed at? What age child or young person?
- 4 Who attends, in what numbers, from what backgrounds/points of connection?
- 5 Who makes up the team and what are their roles?
- 6 What is the aim of engaging in the activity, from a child's or young person's perspective, from the team's and from the church's perspective?
- 7 What happens during the activity? What do those who attend do?
- 8 How long has it been running? Has the church been engaging in it?
- 9 What links are there with the activity to other areas of church or community life?
- 10 What is the cost to attend?
- 11 Where does the budget come from for the activity - central church funds, self-funded?

So that the information is shared with the whole church, prior to the [Facilitation Day](#), you could either copy up the results onto flipchart sheets to have displayed, or type them up and print out copies for all who attend.

