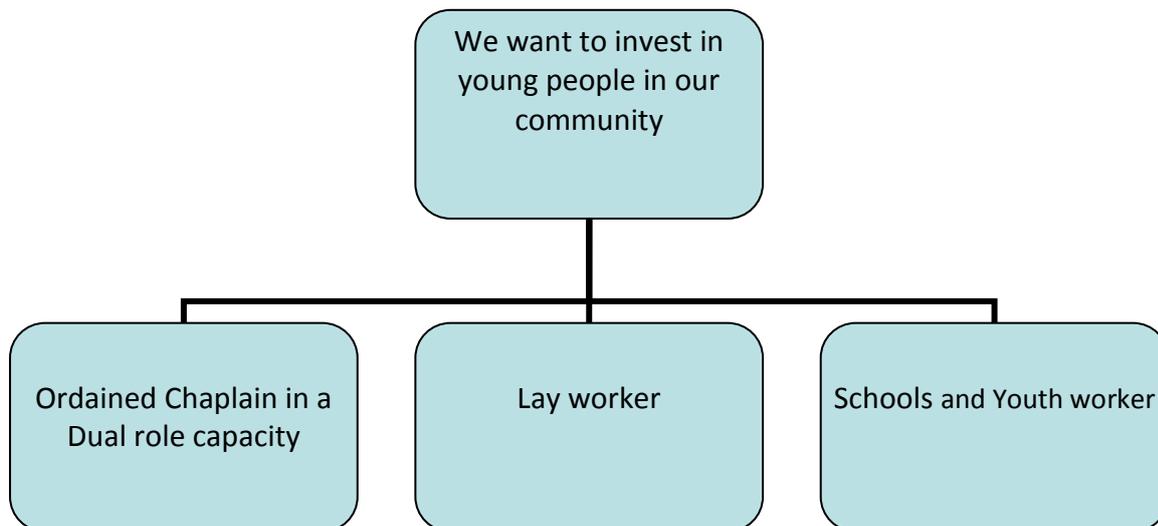


The Development of Chaplaincy in VC or Community Secondary Schools: Stage 1

So you want to do some work in local schools?

Have you considered the alternatives?



If you feel a Dual Role Chaplaincy is the way to go you need to do a bit of homework

Actions

- Assess the needs of the Deanery
- Decide who should hold a conversation with local schools serving your Deanery
- Hold a conversation with the schools serving your Deanery
- Hold a conversation with other churches and ecumenical partners, what are they already doing? What is already in place? What plans do they have?



If you are considering a Dual role appointment it is vital to consider the implications of this both now and in the future.

If the appointment is a success, and you must work on the assumption that it will be:-

- What will you do when the schools work grows and demands more and more of the parish time?
- What will you do when the parish work grows and demands more of the school time?

Remember schools and parishes have very different structures, working and planning practices and different accountability systems. For example schools don't recognise the practice of an interregnum. If your Chaplain should move on the school can't wait 18 months for a new appointment, the parish or Deanery will have to cover the work in schools.

What access will your appointment have to training for both schools and parish work? How will this fit into the CMD programme? Someone doing two jobs will probably require twice as much ongoing training as someone doing one job.

Should the Chaplain be a governor in the school?

This is an appointment that will cut across parish and, possibly, Deanery boundaries. Have you considered the implications of this on individual parish practice in areas such as Admission to Communion, Confirmation, etc

Right that's the schools work sorted. Box ticked!

Wait!

What support will the appointment have in this role? Will a support group be formed to monitor and mentor the Chaplain's well being and to give direction to their work? Are those put on this group willing to give it the time needed?

Is the Parish/Deanery ready to support this stronger link with local schools? Are members of the congregation willing and able to lend their support to schools based work?

What will you do if teenagers start turning up at your services? Are you ready for that change?



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