

## Lead Sessional Youth & Children's Worker: Rochdale Renewal

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<b>Employer:</b>	Manchester Diocesan Board of Finance (MDBF)
<b>Salary:</b>	£15 per hour (JNC scale)
<b>Hours of work:</b>	Part Time – 14 hours per week
<b>Contract</b>	Fixed Term to 31 December 2026
<b>Normal place of work:</b>	Belfield and Cray Estates, Rochdale

### Purpose

The Lead sessional Youth & Children's worker will develop appropriate and innovative mission initiatives reaching out to children and young people, raise and line manage a team to enable the initiatives to evangelise and disciple the unchurched children and young people and the families of the Cray and Belfield estates.

This position forms part of the ambitious "Renewing Rochdale" strategy - a Diocese of Manchester initiative featuring a network of collaborative church interventions designed to revitalise Christian witness and community life across the town through incarnational mission amongst the most deprived communities.

### Background information: Rochdale Strategy Overview

#### Context

Rochdale is a diverse town of 108,000 residents (Borough: 210,000) with a significant Asian heritage population (one-third) and predominantly white working-class outer estates. While historically significant as a birthplace of the Co-operative movement and key industrial revolution hub, Rochdale today faces challenges including economic deprivation and town centre decline, yet continues to heal from difficult times.

The Diocese of Manchester is the Church of England in Bolton, Bury, Leigh, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, and parts of Rossendale, Stockport, Tameside and Trafford. To

find out more about the unique make-up of the diocese and its diverse activities, visit the website: [www.manchester.anglican.org](http://www.manchester.anglican.org)

## **Strategic Vision**

Our mission is to revitalise Christian witness and community life through an ambitious network of collaborative church interventions across different geographic areas and specialisms:

### **Core Initiatives:**

- **Nelson Street Resource Church** - Major town centre hub providing central coordination and resources
- **Antioch Network** - Two church planting strands (Diverse and Estates) focusing on small-to-small multiplication

## **Current Activities**

Since 2021, Hope Community has pioneered two activities to reach out to children and young people:

- 1. Hope Community Youth Group** is for young people in Y6-Y11 (11-16s) living in the Milnrow, Kingsway, Newbold, Firgrove & Belfield areas. Each session is packed full of group games, challenges, sports, chats about life. Currently this runs twice a month.
- 2. Hope Community Fun Time** is a whole-family event for families living in the Milnrow, Kingsway, Newbold, Firgrove & Belfield areas. Each session is packed full of games, challenges, sports, crafts, Bible stories, prizes and offers food to those who come along. Fun Time runs once a month.

Both Youth Group and Fun Time are held at St Ann's Church Hall, Belfield

## **Accountability & Key Relationships**

The post is line managed by the Diocesan Children's officer and is accountable to the Deanery leadership and Diocesan Board of Finance.

The post holder will line manage a sessional youth & children worker and work closely with the local vicar of St Ann's Church, Belfield. The Lead Children's and Youth Worker will work in partnership with local schools, Cher churches close by, community organisations, and other agencies serving the estates.

# Key Tasks

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## **Mission and Evangelism:**

- Reach out to local children and young people to build relationships such that Christian faith can be heard and received.
- Prayerfully discern the current missional activities as well as be open to new ideas to further the Kingdom of God.
- Express the Gospel through actions and words, in the power of the Spirit, that people might become lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ.

## **Community Development:**

- Explore the current activities, Youth club and Fun Time and develop ways of gathering those who are reached into sustainable Christian Community/ies within the extended structures of the Church of England
- Create and develop small discipleship groups and mentoring relationships to deepen the Christian understanding of new believers

## **Team Leadership:**

- Line manage the other two sessional Youth & Children worker and oversee volunteers or team members, delegating responsibility as appropriate.
- Encourage new Christians to share in Christ's mission locally and proactively share their faith with others

# Person Specification

	Essential requirements	Desirable requirements	Method of assessment
<b>Qualifications</b>			
A Levels or equivalent Level 3 qualifications	E		AF
<b>Experience</b>			
Experience of working or volunteering in a children and/ or youth work setting	E		AF/I
Ability to recognise and use their creativity in engaging with others around the Christian faith	E		AF/I
Experience of working in/alongside schools		D	AF/I
Experience in leading others and line management	E		AF/I
<b>Knowledge and skills</b>			
At ease with the aims, values and diversity of the Church of England.		D	AF/I
Ability to work effectively with young people and youth leaders in a parish context	E		AF/I
Good communication skills, both written and verbal	E		AF/I
A working understanding of child safeguarding principles and practices	E		AF/I
Pastoral awareness of a wide range of challenges that young people experience		D	AF/I
Ability to work independently and proactively to develop ministry opportunities	E		AF/I

Ability to enthuse and lead volunteers	E		AF/I
<b>Personal Qualities</b>			
A practising Christian	E		AF/I
Ability to be a positive Christian role model to others, particularly young people	E		AF/I
Willingness to learn and to develop new approaches, as well as sharing learning and resources with others.	E		AF/I
<b>Work related Circumstances</b>			
Able to work flexibly with some evening and weekend work	E		AF/I
Willingness to travel (car not essential)	E		AF/I

**There is an Occupational Requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian, in accordance with Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010.**

# Additional Information

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## Application timetable

The closing date for applications is **Tuesday, 30 September 2025**

The interviews are scheduled for **Wednesday, 8 October 2025** at St Ann's Church, Belfield. Further details will be provided to shortlisted candidates.

## Requirements if Successful at Interview

The post will be offered subject to satisfactory references and proof of eligibility to work in the UK. An enhanced DBS check with barred list check (child workforce) will also be required.

## Summary of Terms & Conditions of Employment

Employer:	Manchester Diocesan Board of Finance (MDBF)
Salary:	£15 per hour (JNC scale)
Hours:	Part Time (14 hours per week)
Contract:	Fixed Term to 31 December 2026
Line Manager:	Diocesan Children's Officer
Probation:	Subject to a 6-month probationary period
Location:	Cray and Belfield Estates, Rochdale