

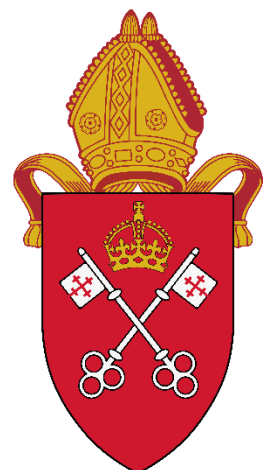
Missional Youth Church Network (MYCN) Impact Evaluation Report

Church Army's Research Unit

June 2023

“MYCN’s support has helped guide the experiments we’ve undertaken in youth work... Its structure encourages innovation and ongoing learning which is so needed in youth work”

(Youth Worker supported by MYCN)



Summary

Missional Youth Church Network (MYCN) was established in 2019 by Church Army, the Archbishop of York's Youth Trust (ABYYT), and the Office of the Archbishop of York (OABY) with a vision of supporting the development of missional youth churches. This evaluation report reflects on MYCN's first four years, reviews its impact and effectiveness, and considers its future development. In doing this, it draws together and summarises material from the following sources:

- Quantitative and qualitative data gathered by the MYCN team during 2022 using evaluation tools developed by Church Army's Research Unit (CARU)
- An online survey of diocesan youth advisors
- An internal Review of MYCN commissioned by MYCN's sponsoring partners

This report's main findings are as follows:

Growing Missional Youth Leaders

Through its learning communities and other activities, MYCN is supporting the development of missional youth leaders and enabling them to become more effective in mission and evangelism with non-churched young people. Quantitative and qualitative feedback gathered highlights participants' growth and development over time. At present MYCN is supporting a relatively small number of practitioners well. How this work is scaled up requires further attention and investment.

Creating Missional Youth Churches

MYCN is helping create fresh expressions of Church for young people who would not otherwise attend an existing model of Church. To date, MYCN has supported the development of 25 current or potential missional youth churches. MYCN also provides a much-appreciated community of learning for the leaders of new and emerging missional youth churches, which helps them to move forward on the fresh expressions learning journey. Again, further consideration needs to be given to questions of scalability and sustainability.

Partnering with the wider Church

MYCN has ambitious plans to scale up its work. There is considerable potential for MYCN to contribute to the delivery of the Church of England's 'Vision and Strategy for the 2020s' and help establish more missional youth churches. A recent Review helped identify some of the further work to be done for that potential to be realised.

Dr Andy Wier
Research Team Leader, Church Army, June 2023

1 Introducing MYCN

MYCN was started in 2019 as a partnership between Church Army, the Archbishop of York's Youth Trust (ABYYT), and the Office of the Archbishop of York (OABY).¹ Its initial vision for MYCN was to enable the development of at least 30 Missional Youth Churches (MYCs) across the Northern Province of the Church of England by 2024. Over recent years, MYCN's geographic focus has broadened. It now supports the development of Missional Youth Churches (MYCs) across the Church of England and beyond.

What is a Missional Youth Church?

According to MYCN, a Missional Youth Church (MYC) is

- Led by mature Christians with 11-18-year-olds (Year 6-13) - by young people and for young people
- On the learning journey towards becoming a fully mature worshipping community, celebrating the sacraments, raising disciples and engaging in the Five Marks of Mission. Over time the MYC becomes an inter-generational church with a missional focus to young people
- Rooted in a single church or a cluster of churches working in partnership, serving the young people in that locality (for example parish, benefice or deanery) which is usually co-terminus with the catchment area of a local secondary school (church or community).

At its inception, MYCN originally had just one staff member - Church Army Evangelist Andy Milne (founder of the Sorted Project in Church Army's Bradford Centre of Mission). Three part-time Strategic Leads (Angela Brymer, Ruthi Gibbons, and Steffen Seiler) were subsequently appointed alongside a part-time (9 hpw) Administrator with Andy Milne now MYCN's Director.

The MYCN team provide mentoring and run learning communities, residentials, prayer gatherings and other activities to help youth workers and youth leaders develop missional youth churches. Their approach to creating missional youth churches is informed by the fresh expressions learning journey pictured below.² Through MYCN's various activities, youth practitioners are introduced to the fresh expressions learning journey, invited to reflect on where their group currently sits, and how to take it further along the journey towards becoming a fresh expression of Church.



Over the past four years, MYCN has needed to adapt and respond to various unanticipated developments, not least a global pandemic. The first national lockdown of March 2020 came at a particularly bad time for MYCN - just when its newly appointed staff were ready to get started. As we reflect later in this report, the pandemic significantly impeded MYCN's progress.

¹ The Archbishop of York's Youth Trust (ABYYT) has subsequently been dissolved.

² Diagram used with permission from the Fresh Expressions team.

2 Evaluation Methodology

This evaluation report draws together and summarises material from the following sources:

- Quantitative and qualitative data gathered by the MYCN team during 2022 using evaluation tools developed by Church Army's Research Unit (CARU)
- An internal Review of MYCN commissioned by its partners - conducted by Jonny Price (Church Army reviewer) and Bishop Chris Edmondson (independent reviewer)
- An online survey of diocesan youth advisors - administered by CARU

2.1 Data gathered by MYCN

Between January 2022 and February 2023, Church Army's Research Unit (CARU) provided research consultancy to help MYCN gather meaningful and useful evaluation data on an ongoing basis. In collaboration with the MYCN team, it was agreed that this would centre around the development of three evaluation tools:

Headline indicators

In conversation with CARU, it was agreed that MYCN would begin to collect data on the following headline indicators for quantifying its reach and impact:

- No. of leaders currently actively connected with MYCN
- No. of leaders making enquiries or contact who may join MYCN
- No. of supporters
- No. of current / potential missional youth churches at each stage of the fresh expressions journey

Distance travelled tool

CARU and MYCN worked together to design a tool for assessing the 'distance travelled' by youth leaders supported by MYCN. Eight core competencies related to developing missional youth churches were identified and youth leaders were asked to assess (on a scale of 1-10) their confidence and capacity in these on two occasions - an initial assessment of where they were when they began their journey with MYCN³ and a subsequent reassessment conducted later in their journey with MYCN. 18 youth workers completed this exercise which charted their development in the following areas:

- Building a team
- Building community
- Connecting with young people
- Dealing with change
- Discipleship with young people
- Listening to God and others
- Sharing Jesus with young people
- Worship with young people

³ In most cases, this had to be conducted retrospectively as the tool was not developed until 2022.

Story capture tool

Since the start of 2022, the MYCN team have been gathering qualitative feedback from youth leaders supported using a story capture template developed by CARU. 17 youth leaders have provided feedback in this way (some more than once) and the responses have been analysed by CARU.

2.2 Strategic Review

Between September 2022 and February 2023, Bishop Chris Edmondson and Jonny Price (Church Resource Offer, Church Army) conducted a Review of MYCN for the Office of the Archbishop of York and Church Army. As well as drawing on the above sources and other strategic documents, the reviewers conducted interviews and conversations with various senior Church leaders and representatives of national Church bodies. Though the resulting Review report (presented to Church Army Management Group in March 2023) was written for an internal Church Army / OABY audience), the report authors and sponsors have given their permission for relevant extracts to be used within this evaluation report.

2.3 Diocesan Youth Officers survey

To assess external perceptions of MYCN, Church Army's Research Unit were also asked to design, administer, and analyse the results of an online survey for diocesan youth officers. A 10-question online survey was sent to Diocesan Youth Officers (DYOs) and equivalents across Church of England dioceses via a national network of DYOs. The survey received a total of 24 responses. 2 respondents, however, did not have responsibility for diocesan youth ministry so their responses were not included in the analysis that follows.

Over the pages that follow, we present the main findings and insights emerging from these various evaluation methods. Our findings are presented thematically, considering MYCN's contribution to the following three areas in turn:

- Growing missional youth leaders
- Creating missional youth churches
- Partnering with the wider Church

3 Findings

3.1 Growing missional youth leaders

Through its learning communities and other activities, MYCN is supporting the development of missional youth leaders and enabling them to become more effective in mission and evangelism with non-churched young people. Quantitative and qualitative feedback gathered highlights participants' growth and development over time. At present MYCN are supporting a relatively small number of practitioners well. How this work is scaled up requires further attention and investment.

Headline indicators

The number of youth leaders currently actively connected with MYCN has only been systematically recorded since the start of 2022. But since then, this figure has increased from 27 (January 2022) to 31 (January 2023).

	Jan-22	Jun-22	Oct-22	Jan-23
No. of leaders currently actively connected with MYCN	27	28	31	31

In keeping with MYCN's original focus, many of the leaders supported are from the north of England. However, as the table below shows, MYCN is also supporting leaders from other parts of England, as well as Wales and Northern Ireland.

	No. of leaders in each region (Jan 2023)
England: Yorkshire and the Humber	11
England: East Midlands	5
England: West Midlands	3
England: North East	2
England: North West	2
England: East of England	1
England: London	1
England: South East	1
England: South West	1
Northern Ireland	2
Wales	2
Scotland	0

As indicated below, the MYCN team also collects data on the number of leaders making enquiries or contact who may join MYCN, and the number of supporters on its mailing list.

	Jan-22	Jun-22	Oct-22	Jan-23
No. of leaders making enquiries or contact who may join with MYCN	5	14	11	10
No. of supporters	62	70	70	70

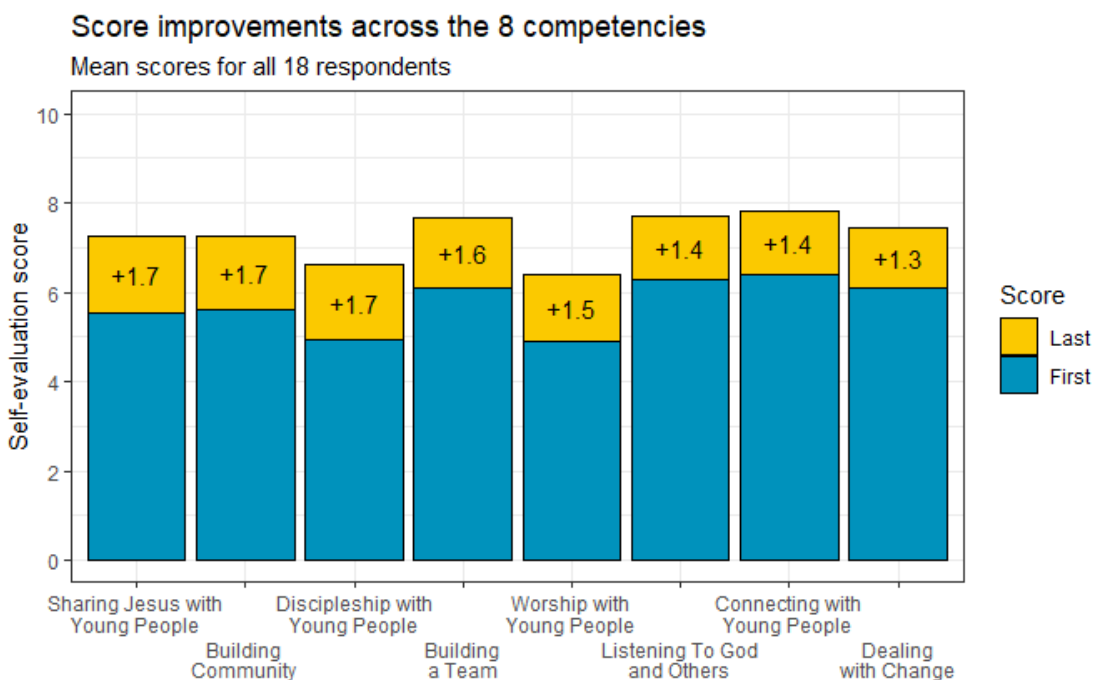
Distance travelled

Youth leaders report that during their journey with MYCN their confidence and capability in various competencies related to establishing missional youth churches increases. Responses to our 'distance travelled' tool show improvements in all eight competencies identified, with the greatest improvements found in:

- Discipleship with young people (mean score increasing from 4.9 to 6.6)
- Building community (mean score increasing from 5.6 to 7.3)
- Sharing Jesus with young people (mean score increased from 5.6 to 7.3)

The table below shows the average initial and final scores for each item.

Item	Mean initial score	Mean final score	Improvement
Discipleship with young people	4.9	6.6	1.7
Worship with young people	4.9	6.4	1.5
Building community	5.6	7.3	1.7
Sharing Jesus with young people	5.6	7.3	1.7
Building a team	6.1	7.7	1.6
Dealing with change	6.1	7.4	1.3
Listening to God and others	6.3	7.7	1.4
Connecting with young people	6.4	7.8	1.4



Definitions

Area	Description
Building a team	Gathering, envisioning, and training a team. Taking them with you to travel a shared direction
Building community	Starting groups and involving team members. Enabling young people to be involved in setting the agenda and running sessions
Connecting with young people	Engaging with unchurched young people in a variety of contexts. E.g. detached work, schools and open youth work
Dealing with change	Leading others through periods of change and supporting team members and young people so that everyone can grow through the experience
Discipleship with young people	Starting small groups; enabling young people to go deeper in their exploration of Scripture and developing their own faith/connection with God
Listening to God and others	Experience of listening to God and others, and of guiding others to do likewise
Sharing Jesus with young people	Being creative in the variety of ways that you might present the gospel and demonstrate God's love to young people
Worship with young people	Enabling young people to express themselves in relation to God in ways that are relevant to them and their faith development

What youth leaders say

Through the story capture tool designed by CARU, the MYCN team have also been collecting qualitative feedback from youth leaders. This has included responses to the questions ‘How has MYCN’s support helped you on the journey to develop a missional youth church?’ and ‘What’s the most important thing you have learned, or are learning, on your journey to develop a missional youth church?’ Analysis of this material has enabled CARU to identify the following things that youth leaders say they appreciate and value about MYCN:

- **Mentoring and support from experienced practitioners**

“I have appreciated being able to ‘think aloud’ with people who are very experienced in youth work and have benefitted from their wisdom. There is great value in thinking through various options with people who have an understanding of the situation but are not part of it and so have no ‘agenda’ of their own.”

- **Empathy and reassurance**

“Being affirmed in what I was already doing and being encouraged that it doesn’t happen overnight. I’m learning that it’s ok to make mistakes as long as I learn from it....”

- **Challenge and fresh thinking**

Challenged by MYCN to think through what the next steps towards faith might be for the young people. “Changing our approach so that the youth could take ownership of their night immediately changed the dynamic of the group”

- **Stories and methods**

“I’ve found it helpful to hear stories and methods of how to move unchurched young people from relationships and drop-ins into small groups where they explore faith”

- **Peer support**

“meeting others in similar situations across the country”; “the support has been invaluable, stopped me feeling so isolated and out of my depth”

- **Practical pointers and advice**

“The worship workshop really helped me to think about seating, lighting and turning up the volume to help young people worship unembarrassed... Help on the end of the phone is helpful too”

- **A framework, a structure and vocabulary**

“Getting to grips with [the fresh expressions] learning journey helps us to know the steps, identify where we are on the journey and identify next steps needed”

Reflection and comment

The quantitative and qualitative feedback reviewed above has highlighted various ways in which MYCN is supporting the development of missional youth leaders and enabling them to become more effective in mission and evangelism with non-churched young people. It is important to note, however, that some youth leaders indicated (within their story capture forms) that they had not had time to fully engage with the MYCN network or stressed that it was still early days. Others pointed out that, while hearing stories from other places at MYCN events is inspiring, they still have further ‘mental leaps’ to take in applying the principles to their own contexts. Nevertheless, the recent Review commended MYCN’s “holistic” approach to advocating, resourcing, and enabling evangelism with non-churched young people within a post-Christian culture and post-pandemic climate. Contrasting MYCN’s outward-looking approach with an inward-looking maintenance model of youth ministry, the Reviewers commented that:

“Even for those very early in their journey both in their context and with MYCN, the value of this network was apparent and the sense of shared endeavour and exploration was already motivating them to experiment with their practice.”

The Review also reflected that at present MYCN are supporting a relatively small number of practitioners well and went on to suggest that how this work is scaled up requires further consideration. Encouragingly, MYCN is already developing plans to address issues highlighted by the Review, though implementing these also requires significant funding and investment.

3.2 Creating missional youth churches

MYCN is helping create fresh expressions of Church for young people who would not otherwise attend an existing model of Church. To date, MYCN has supported the development of 25 current or potential missional youth churches. MYCN also provides a much-appreciated community of learning for the leaders of new and emerging missional youth churches, which helps them to move forward on the fresh expressions learning journey. Again, further consideration needs to be given to questions of scalability and sustainability.

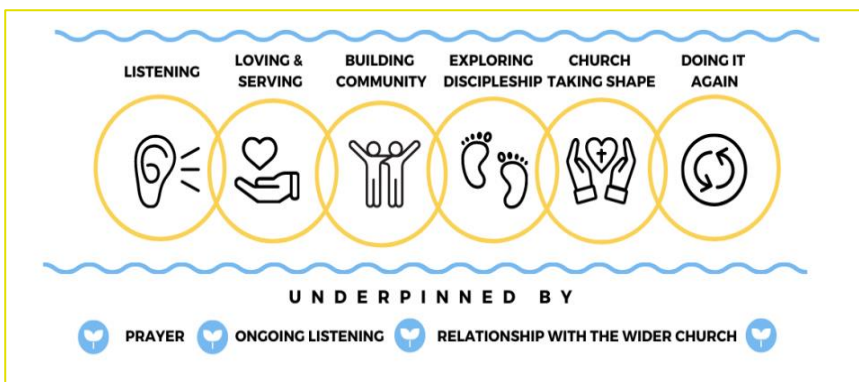
Headline indicators

MYCN’s approach to measuring the creation of missional youth churches (MYCs) is informed by the fresh expressions journey pictured below. This involves the team periodically assessing where each group they support is on the journey towards becoming a fresh expression of Church. The most recently available data on this is presented in the table below.

- By January 2023, MYCN had supported the development of **25 current or potential missional youth churches**. (MYCN does not yet have a definitive way of determining at what point a *potential* MYC becomes an *actual* MYC. The recent Review proposed that this should be given further consideration)
- The majority of these (16 of 25) are at the ‘**building community**’ or ‘**exploring discipleship**’ stages of the fx journey. Five however are at the ‘**church taking shape**’ stage (MYCs based in Accrington, Bradford, Greenwich, Southampton, and Wrexham).
- Over the past year, the majority of groups had **moved forward on the fx journey**, with many moving beyond the ‘listening’ and ‘loving & serving’ stages to ‘building community’ and ‘exploring discipleship’. However, one MYC which had been at the ‘doing it again’ stage has ‘gone backwards’ due to leadership changes.

How many MYCs are at each stage to the fresh expressions journey?

Stages	Jan-22	Jun-22	Oct-22	Jan-23
Listening	5	4	3	2
Loving & Serving	4	2	2	2
Building Community	5	6	6	6
Exploring Discipleship	4	5	9	10
Church taking shape	3	5	5	5
Doing it again		1		
	21	23	25	25



Exploring discipleship

One of the areas of greatest growth over the last year has been an increase in the number of groups exploring discipleship with non-churched young people. In January 2022, there were just 4 groups at this stage of the fx Journey but by January 2023 there were 10. One such example is Neil Obbard's work on the Seacroft estate in Leeds. As part of the Leeds Centre of Mission (a partnership between Church Army and the Diocese of Leeds), Neil has been working to start a youth church on the Seacroft estate, an area where young people face many challenges. Much of Neil's early work (amidst the challenges of the pandemic) focused on building connections with local schools and listening, loving, and serving there. Over time, this had led to opportunities for exploring discipleship, with 25 young people engaging in prayer and faith discussions and 12 young people engaging in Sunday worship.

Church taking shape

Although MYCN was only established in 2019, some of the groups it supports are already beginning to see church taking shape. One such example is the Tin Can missional youth church being developed by Josh Smith and others on the Caia Park estate in Wrexham. This MYC began life before the pandemic and has subsequently been restarted with a new group of around 30 younger teenagers alongside 15 older teens from before the pandemic. Josh reflects that this MYC's approach has been resourced and impacted by conversations with MYCN Director Andy Milne and other learning community members, and by hearing stories like that of the Sorted Project in Bradford:

“Through chatting with Andy and attending the MYCN learning community, it's been reassuring to hear stories of people facing similar problems and challenges as us in Wrexham. It's been good to hear stories that give us ideas about what next steps we may need to take to move our vision forward. The learning community teachings on 'building a team, listening to the culture of young people, building community and adapting our approach to discipleship to context' have really helped us...”

Other youth leaders identify further ways that MYCN's support has helped them on the journey to develop a missional church and the recent Review noted that stories of the significant impact that engagement with the learning community has enabled are common. As noted already earlier in this report, youth leaders appreciate the chance to 'think out loud' with experienced practitioners and to meet others in similar situations across the country. MYCN's support also gives them a framework and structure for establishing missional youth churches, alongside valued stories and methods, practical pointers, challenge, reassurance, and empathy. Though there is relatively limited data available about how specifically that support contributes to the growth and development of missional youth churches (i.e. what would not have happened without MYCN), what is clear is that MYCN provides a valued community of learning for the leaders of new and emerging missional youth churches.

Reflection and comment

MYCN was initially set up with a vision of establishing at least 30 missional youth churches (MYCs) across the Northern Province of the Church of England by 2024. Although MYCN's geographical focus has subsequently broadened, and regardless of the question of at what point a *potential* MYC becomes an *actual* MYC, this target has not yet been achieved. Reflecting on this, it is important to acknowledge:

- The impact of the pandemic - As the recent Review noted, the first national lockdown of March 2020 came at a particularly bad time for the newly established MYCN: “At the point when MYCN staff were ready to develop connections, build the brand, gain credibility, and work to identify priority areas to work in, youth provision was stopped in its tracks.” The MYCN team (initially Andy Milne and volunteers)⁴ worked hard to adapt (e.g. moving learning communities and mentoring online), but the pandemic made MYCN’s work “significantly harder than it would have been”. Though it is impossible to know exactly how many MYCs would have been established without a pandemic, it is highly likely that there would have been more.
- The need for more realistic timeframes - Some of the national voices consulted also suggested that growing a sustainable fresh expression of Church can often take at least 7-9 years (not 5 years as sometimes previously presumed), so expectations in this regard need to be carefully managed.

As noted already, MYCN does not yet have a definitive way of determining at what point a *potential* MYC becomes an *actual* MYC. The recent Review suggested that this needs to be given further consideration and that youth leaders themselves should be involved in this categorisation. The review also proposed that further consideration should be given to questions of MYCN’s scalability and sustainability. To date, MYCN has offered very intensive, high quality, support for a relatively limited number of practitioners but MYCN is keen to expand and grow. In view of this, the Review suggested that MYCN may need to identify clearer onboarding points and practices as well as considering whether some of the support it currently provides could be shared or passed on to others.

⁴ Until the appointment of new Strategic Leads in May 2021, Andy Milne was MYCN’s only staff member. John Day, Dan Finn, Tracy Milne, and Andy Wilson all helped voluntarily at most of the online Learning Communities.

3.3 Partnering with the wider Church

MYCN has ambitious plans to scale up its work. There is considerable potential for MYCN to contribute to the delivery of the Church of England's 'Vision and Strategy for the 2020s' and help establish more missional youth churches. The recent Review helped identify some of the further work to be done for that potential to be realised.

National perceptions

As part of the recent Review, various senior Church leaders and representatives of national Church bodies were asked about their experiences and perceptions of MYCN. This established that MYCN's work aligns well with the Church of England's vision and there is significant potential for MYCN to partner with the wider Church in helping realise that vision. The Review also identified various challenges and risks that need to be navigated for that potential to be realised:

- To avoid 'falling through the gaps' of Church of England strategy, MYCN communication and promotional material needs to clearly explain how MYCN's work map on to the *Everyday Faith* initiative's three loci of faith development (home, school, and church)
- Within a Church of England context, MYCN also needs to be explain how its work contributes to a 'mixed ecology' of church life in which traditional parishes co-exist with fresh expressions, church plants and pioneer ministries.
- Scaling up - For MYCN to be seriously considered as a partner by the national Church, it needs to be able to show that it can scale up its work.

The Review also suggested that while it is understandable that that MYCN has been prioritising on-the-groundwork for the last three years, it now also needs to allocate some staff time to engaging in strategic conversations about implementing its work more widely.

Perceptions of Diocesan Youth Officers (DYO)

Diocesan Youth Officers (and others in similar roles) were asked about their experiences and perceptions of MYCN though an online survey. The main findings were as follows:

- **DYOs were generally knowledgeable about MYCN**

Most DYOs (16 out of 22) knew at least 'a moderate amount' about MYCN's work.

Knowledge of MYCN's work	No. respondents
I know nothing about MYCN's work	2
I know a little about MYCN's work	4
I know a moderate amount about MYCN's work	14
I know a lot about MYCN's work	2

- **Most respondents found out about MYCN through direct contact with MYCN**

14 out of 22 respondents first found out about MYCN through direct contact with MYCN staff. Other respondents found about out MYCN through a variety of channels including conferences, diocesan email bulletins, social media, and word of mouth.

- **Enthusiasm for MYCN’s work varied but most were ‘moderately’ or ‘very’ enthusiastic.** Of those who knew at least a little about MYCN, the majority (10 out of 17) said they were ‘moderately enthusiastic’ about MYCN. A further 3 said they were ‘very enthusiastic’.

Enthusiasm/Knowledge of MYCN
(DYO’s with at least a little knowledge)

Enthusiasm for MYCN’s work	Very enthusiastic	1	1	1
	Moderately enthusiastic	1	8	1
	Slightly enthusiastic	-	1	-
	Not particularly enthusiastic	-	3	-
		A little	A moderate amount	A lot
		Knowledge of MYCN’s work		

- **DYO’s noted many strengths of MYCN’s approach - these included:**

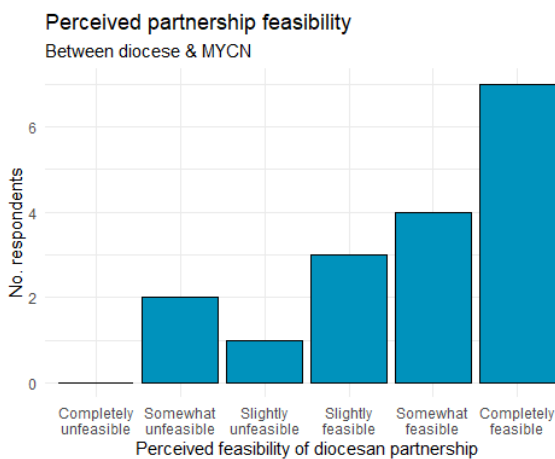
“Passion for young people” and “Allowing young people to take the lead”

“Tried and tested model” and “Innovative, flexible model”

“Andy and Angela have been incredibly encouraging to leaders in our diocese and locally, youth workers love their humble and sacrificial approach.”

“MYCN offer spaces for learning for dioceses who don’t have anything else in place. They present an opportunity for people across a larger area to connect and learn from each other”

- **Attitudes to partnership with MYCN varied but most said that partnership was feasible**
When asked if partnership between their diocese and MYCN was feasible, 11 of 17 respondents to this question indicated that partnership was either ‘completely’ (7) or ‘somewhat’ (4) feasible’. However, 3 participants said partnership was only ‘slightly feasible’, with a further 3 saying it was (slightly or somewhat) ‘unfeasible’.



- **DYOs suggested various potential avenues and opportunities for partnership with MYCN:**

“Identifying parishes where the youth church model might be the most appropriate and supporting them in partnership with MYCN”⁵

“MYCN supporting new pioneer workers in particular places to set up new groups and congregations”

“Resourcing emerging expressions of worship with young people”

“Offering support to leaders to get things started and be sustainable”

- **DYOs also helped identify potential barriers for MYCN will need to address:**

- Several DYOs expressed concern that ‘MYCN sounds like it is focused only on youth congregations’ and felt this may be at odds with the development of intergenerational communities. This may be a misperception as long-standing MYCs like Sorted (Bradford) and TYM (Greenwich) have worked hard to develop inter-generational church, but MYCN will need to work at addressing such concerns.

Some respondents found it hard to see what MYCN could provide that was different from what DYOs were doing already. One DYO commented “they don’t really offer anything more than what we can and are already doing in our diocese”, though others have told MYCN: “the dioceses need MYCN with your expertise in reaching unchurched young people”.

⁵ Note, however, that the respondent went on to say they felt this model would only work in contexts where there is an employed youth worker.

4 Conclusion

This report has reviewed quantitative and qualitative data from multiple sources to reflect on the first four years of Missional Youth Church Network, review MYCN's impact and effectiveness and consider issues for its future development. Amidst all the challenges of a global pandemic that significantly impeded MYCN's early work, MYCN has achieved a considerable amount in its first phase of development, as summarised below.

Growing missional youth leaders

Through its learning communities and other activities, MYCN is supporting the development of missional youth leaders and enabling them to become more effective in mission and evangelism with non-churched young people. At present MYCN are supporting a relatively small number of practitioners well. How this work is scaled up requires further attention and investment.

Creating missional youth churches

MYCN is helping create fresh expressions of Church for young people who would not otherwise attend an existing model of Church. To date, MYCN has supported the development of 25 current or potential missional youth churches. Again, further consideration needs to be given to questions of scalability and sustainability.

Partnering with the wider Church

MYCN has ambitious plans to scale up its work. There is considerable potential for MYCN to contribute to the delivery of the Church of England's 'Vision and Strategy for the 2020s' and help establish more missional youth churches. The recent Review helped identify some of the further work to be done for that potential to be realised.

Review Recommendations

The recent internal Review made a series of detailed recommendations for MYCN's next stage of development. These included recommendations around:

- Recognising and celebrating MYCN's creativity, ambition, hard work, and collaboration.
- Reviewing expectations about timescales to reflect current national thinking about how long it takes to establish sustainable fresh expressions of Church
- Engaging with dioceses with little current youth ministry support
- Considering what a scaled-up version of the MYCN learning community would entail and ensuring there are clear boundaries in place (reviewing onboarding / offboarding arrangements, pastoral care, and governance)
- Clarifying at what point a potential missional youth church is considered an actual one, and how practitioners are involved in the categorisation process.
- Engaging in more strategic conversations within the national Church
- Establishing a new Memorandum of Agreement between MYCN's partners, further work on headline indicators, and another full Review in five years' time