



ONE opportunity programme

Overview

The ONE Opportunity scheme runs from September to August and applications are welcome from anyone aged 16-23 in the Sheffield District.

The scheme is designed to encourage, recognise and reward the participation of young people within the District in the Church's life and mission. It gives them the opportunity to be involved on a part-time basis in the development of the mission and ministry of their churches at a local level.

Developed within our district the ONE Opportunity programme is designed to encourage and recognise the participation of young people within the district in our Church's life and mission. The programme is for young people aged 16-23 years and gives them the opportunity to be involved on a part-time basis in the development of the mission and ministry of their church. It offers a salaried position of 3 hours per week, on a one-year project shaped around the gifts and passions of the young person. The project should also enhance the life and mission of the church and enable the intern to work out their discipleship in new ways.

The ONE Opportunity Programme has a focus on discipleship and relationship building. It aims to encourage the development of the interns, and to influence the wider church community who come alongside them.

In addition to their paid hours, all the interns are expected to be available to attend both District Gatherings (SYNOD) 3Generate, Leadership residential weekend, training days and monthly fellowship groups during the year as part of their commitment; which are fully funded by the District, but the hours are not paid. These will enable them to belong to a community of young people learning and reflecting together.

Feedback

Overall the feedback is really positive for our first year, however there's always room for improvement.

Feedback from interns:

1) What has been the best part of the internship for you?

The best part about the internship was meeting new people.

I really enjoyed the aspect of leading worship and bible studies with others similar ages to me.

Learning new skills on how to communicate with people and getting opportunities to go to events and learn more about god and how the church is connected while meeting new people.

2) How has your project gone?

Over the year I have mostly been focusing on my skills as a youth leader and seeing what improve a group. I think I have really figured out how to care for the needs of the children and I now feel confident as a youth leader.

it went really well, we went from 1 member the first week to 7 regulars. They have all been excited to learn more.

My project has gone good only wished we could have set more up.

3) what have you least enjoyed over this year?

I wish I had aimed my project better which would have made the year better. However I do feel like this was necessary for me to learn my strengths and I now feel like I could go off on my own and start another project

as most people were my age there was a little bit of issue with authority

4) what have you learnt about yourself over this past year?

I have learnt to be confident in my decisions and be creative creating new games and to deal with issues that have arose

that I can lead bible studies well with good information and enjoyment of others

I've grown so much in confidence and I've learnt that I have patience.

5) if we could do anything differently next year what would it be?

I think the project is ran well with a lot of check-ins and extra opportunities provide throughout. I don't see anyways it needs altering.

more time as a group of interns

Feedback from project enablers

It has been a pleasure supporting and working with this years intern. It was abit of a slow start with us all finding our feet within the project but we appreciated Vic's encouragement and support. We have all noticed the different in their confidence over this year and it's incredible.

We have really enjoyed having an intern with us this year, they bring so much to the group and have grown in confidence and developed their leadership skills. It's such a privilege to journey with them.

Review

This year we have had 3 interns from across the District and each project has done well in terms of their original objectives set out.

It's been a great asset working alongside our neighbouring Districts (Yorkshire North & East and Yorkshire West) for support and encouragement – this has been so valuable for both me and the interns.

I have recognised the importance of being clear with each intern about their additional commitments outside of their projects. Despite this being written into their job description and

contract it has felt that they have been abit relaxed about attending additional events – which is not intended as this additional events give opportunity to grow in their leadership, faith and general support through the year. With this in mind I will be allowing them a pass on one of the additional events but making it clear that they need to attend all additional events.

The most obvious impact we've seen in each of the interns is their confidence has grown. We've seen each of them flourish this year through this opportunity. It's been a pleasure journeying with them all. I've also seen their faith grow for some it's been a huge leap and for others it's been a great next step.

Recommendations

We would like to continue this for at least another 5 years. Based on the original proposal we set a budget for 10 interns per year which was very optimistic, my hope is that in one year we'll be able to get it up to at least 7 (one in each circuit).

Induction is clearer with detailed explanation of dates and commitments for all new interns and to include project enablers in these conversations.

Further conversations with Project enablers.

More buy in from around the District – do we know people who can be ambassadors to promote this within local churches/circuits? Can the DLT team be actively helping with identifying new interns? Is there a better way to promote this?

We currently have two completing their applications and another two possibles for this coming year. So hopefully have 4 interns starting this year.