



## Key Steps to Consider

**The vision of Mothers' Union is to create a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships**

What steps can help guide us as we consider how we can most effectively offer Christian care to families around us?

- Step one** As we recognise and celebrate the unique contribution that we each as Christians can offer, what is our sense of what God may be inspiring us to be and do.....?
- Step two** What are the issues/needs being experienced by those who live in our community?
- Step three** Given the vision of Mothers' Union, which issues/needs is it most appropriate for us to meet?
- Step four** Do our current activities meet those needs?  
Are there any new activities we could consider introducing?  
What are our gifts, skills interests and capacity?  
Are there others who we could appropriately work in partnership with?
- Step five** What do we need to do next, to get from where we are now, to where we would like to be?



**When Mary Sumner founded Mothers' Union,  
she didn't 'dream up' a need, she saw one**  
Very Rev David Brindley, Dean of Portsmouth



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## The five key steps – in more detail

### Step one

As we recognise and celebrate the unique contribution that we each as Christians can offer, what is our sense of what God may be inspiring us to be and do.....?

As a Christian mission agency, our work is rooted in prayer, formed by Biblical principles. We will want to ask God to guide us as we carefully consider the best ways to offer Christian care to those around us.

### Step two

What are the many needs/issues being experienced by those who live in our community?

- Talk with family, friends and members. All of us will have a wealth of insights and information, gained from our own experiences.
- Meet with local parents, (through the local school, church, parents groups, etc) and other members of the community, to find out from them what issues they feel face the local community.
- Consult with local clergy, and at the diocesan level, the Bishop. Discuss issues/needs they are aware of, and which of these they feel the Mothers' Union, working with the clergy, could appropriately address.
- Make contact with local community workers, health visitors, doctors; what issues do they encounter as they support families?
- Consult with those working with other agencies and charities: are there gaps in provision that they are aware of? Knowing what their priorities are will help avoid inappropriate duplication.

### Step three

Given the vision of Mothers' Union, which issues/needs is it most appropriate for us to meet?

*As we identify potential needs in our community, key questions to consider are:*

- Should Mothers' Union consider finding a way to help meet this need – would this be reflecting our vision of the role of Mothers' Union – to create a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships?



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- Is any other agency already meeting this need – if Mothers' Union got involved, would this inappropriately duplicate support already being offered?
- Could Mothers' Union explore working in partnership with another agency, so that together, needs could be more effectively addressed?
- How enthusiastic are members about getting involved in responding to this need?

### Step four

How do our current activities meet those needs?  
Are there any new activities we could consider introducing?  
What are our gifts, skills, interests and capacity?



#### *Current initiatives*

- Find out about the current range of outreach work being undertaken by members – are they addressing issues/needs you have identified in step two?
- Do any activities need changing, developing, or even closing?

#### *Are there any new initiatives we could develop?*

- What might these be?
- Consider what research could be undertaken to identify the initiative that might help to meet a particular need.
- Within the membership, what are our gifts, skills, interests and capacity – how enthusiastic are members about participating in any proposed new activity?
- Do we have or could we realistically develop access routes to those we are trying to reach out to?
- Within the membership, have we got (or could we realistically acquire) the skills and capacity that would be needed?
- Costs – have we got or could we raise any necessary funding?



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### Step five:

What do we need to do next, to get from where we are now, to where we would like to be?

*Exploring the above steps will have generated a range of ideas. Discuss together:*

- Which ideas you want to consider more fully.
- Who you would like to talk them through with, inviting feedback – potential beneficiaries, local clergy, deanery or diocesan leaders within Mothers' Union, other agencies.

### Next steps.....

Identify any more detailed research that needs to be done and draw up a plan.  
Continue to pray and seek God's guidance as your planning progresses.

For more information on project planning and development, please see the members' section of the Mothers' Union's website [www.themothersunion.org](http://www.themothersunion.org)