

Changes in the Responsibilities of Local Meetings within Quakers in London – version 5 (18/7/26)

At the end of 2026, the seven current Area Meetings of London will merge with each other and with London Quakers Property Trust, to form Quakers in London (QIL). After that, the 33 Local Meetings will continue to operate in much the same way as now, guided by chapter 4 of Quaker Faith and Practice. This paper sets out the few exceptions, where there will be changes in how things work. Most of these are changing either because the new Area Meeting will be much bigger than our current ones or because QIL will provide a little more staff support to Local Meetings than currently. As LMs vary in the details of how they do things, the degree of change for each LM, compared with current practice, will also vary. Key changes for Local Meetings are highlighted in **bold**.

Local Business Meetings

Business meetings at local level will continue largely as they are now. They will still appoint Friends to attend Area Meeting (QIL), and make other appointments (see below). They will have more responsibility for the early stages of membership processes (see below).

Clusters

Local Business Meetings can decide to reach out to other LMs, nearby or elsewhere in London, with which they want to carry out activities or provide mutual support. These links may develop into recognised 'clusters' of LMs.

Local Nominations Committees

The burden of finding Friends to serve locally should be eased by the changes. Premises Treasurers will not be needed, and for most meetings, there will no longer be an LM Treasurer (though a less demanding financial role will remain – see below). Far fewer AM Trustees will be needed overall, and these will be nominated by QIL's own Nominations Committee, which will also find names for other AM-level roles.

Because the overall structure of QIL will be lighter, compared with operating seven Area Meetings, London Quakers Property Trust and London Quakers, there will on average be fewer Friends in your meeting carrying AM-level responsibilities, which will help with finding names for LM-level roles.

Eldership and Pastoral Care

Elders and Pastoral Care Friends will mainly, as now, focus their work on their own Local Meetings. When they need support, they can approach the QIL Eldership and Pastoral Care Committee (E&PCC), or they may want to make contact with the Elders and Pastoral Care Friends in nearby LMs. E&PCC will invite all Elders and Pastoral Care Friends across London to meet, online or in person, from time to time, for mutual support and learning. These meetings will usually replace the meetings which many of the current AMs organise, though there is nothing to stop the Es and PCs in parts of London continuing to meet up if they wish.

If a local meeting is struggling or finding it hard to deal with a conflict, they can contact E&PCC, who may look for Friends in nearby LMs to advise, support or mediate.

Appointments of Elders and Pastoral Care Friends will still be triennial, and will be made by QIL. However, from 2027, **Local Meetings are asked to make the nominations**, either through their normal Nominations Committee or by appointing a special one for the purpose.

Local Meetings which have a shared eldership or pastoral care arrangement can continue with that arrangement, but it would be helpful if they can provide contact details of a named Friend to E&PCC.

Membership

All membership decisions (on applications for membership, terminations of membership and transfers of membership) will be taken by QIL. The processes leading up to those decisions will however mainly be carried out at local level, in liaison with the QIL Membership Clerk. Details of these processes are set out in a separate document, which will be agreed by Joint London Area Meeting in autumn 2026. **Local Meetings will have a more active role than currently.**

Finance and Treasurers

Local meetings have been asked to choose between three options for management of their finances. Each option represents a different balance between simplicity and local control.

-‘Option 1’ meetings will have their funds pooled with the Area Meeting. All income, including donations, will go directly to QiL. There will therefore be no quota to meet for the LM, but meetings will be asked to appoint a fundraiser to encourage members to donate on an individual basis instead. Expenditure for the LM is met from QiL funds, within an annual budget set in conjunction with QiL.

- ‘Option 2a’ meetings manage their own funds and have their own bank account (although, as now, these funds would legally be the property of the AM charity). The LM would be responsible for bookkeeping, making payments, and preparing accounts and other financial information needed by QiL. Expenditure would be determined by the LM, with appropriate controls. Donations are collected by the LM, with an LM-level quota set for contributions to QiL, determined annually by QiL in session (i.e. similar to the pre-merger LQPT quota).

- Option 2b’ meetings will also have their own separate funds, but these would be held by QiL. This would allow for bookkeeping and payments to be handled by QiL, but the LM would still need to prepare accounts, meet a quota and manage its expenditure.

Details of these arrangements and the transition process are currently being provided to treasurers.

Premises

All Premises accounts and banking will be centralised, so local premises bank accounts will no longer be needed and Premises Committees will no longer need to include a Treasurer. Details of the transition process are currently being provided. **Staff will be able to provide additional support on hirings to premises committees which**

would welcome that.

Premises Committee members will be appointed by QIL on the nomination of the Local Meeting.

Outreach

Local Meetings are encouraged to do outreach as now, working with other LMs if they wish (perhaps as a cluster), and including the costs of this work in the Meeting's agreed budget. There will be a QIL Outreach Committee which will mean that local outreach projects will have **additional support and opportunities to network** across London.

Community and Witness work

Local Meetings will continue to do witness work in their local communities as now, working with other LMs if they wish (perhaps as a cluster), and including the costs of this work in the Meeting's budget. LMs can take a concern to AM-level, as now.

Provision for Children and Young People

There will be a QIL Children, Young People and Families Committee, which will work closely with Julia Stacey, the London Children and Youth Development Worker employed by Quakers in Britain. This will mean that local children's committees will have **additional support and opportunities to network** across London. Children, young people and families will have **additional networks and events** to enrich their Quaker experience.

Safeguarding

There will be a Safeguarding Coordinator and two Deputy Safeguarding Coordinators serving QIL. They will liaise closely with the Safeguarding Officer in each LM. There will be staff support for some aspects of this work, including record-keeping.

Friends to advise on funerals

Funeral arrangements will mainly be made locally, which is how some LMs already work. **An LM will have its own funeral adviser or make some other arrangement**, perhaps sharing an adviser across several nearby LMs, or asking local Elders and Pastoral Friends to take on the responsibility.

Care of burial grounds

Burial grounds will mainly be the responsibility of Local Meetings, as now, but the few LMs which have burial grounds may wish to link up with one another for mutual support. Responsibility for Jordans Burial Ground is being transferred out of London.

Websites and IT

Staff (with input from Friends) will maintain the AM website and publish The Quill, the regular newsletter for Friends across London. These enable LMs to publicise their activities and help Friends to know what is happening in other LMs and in QIL. **Staff will also train, advise and support LMs in using technology**, including accounting software (where still needed) and local websites.