Going for growth resource sheets

Katherine Lyddon, from the [Diocese of Exeter](#), offers a step by step guide to auditing the provision of children and youth work in your area.

AUDITING CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK

STEP 1
Write the following headings on four separate large sheets of paper and start mapping the provision in your local area.

A: **Church Group/service**
List all the church-based services/activities that involve children and young people in your locality (eg uniformed groups, Carer and Toddler group, After school clubs, reading 1:1, holiday clubs, Youth Clubs)

B: **Church links**
List activities where there are links with existing community groups e.g. take place on church premises, or where a church member is a leader or helper in another place locally (School Governor, helping in a uniform group, parent/carer/grandparent in the local school)

C: **No connection**
List all the activities for children and young people in your area where there seem to be no church links.

D: **Not happening**
List any activities that could take place that would benefit children and their families in your area. (e.g. would a breakfast club at the school help families where parents have to leave early to commute to work? Is there a Rainbow club for girls but no Beavers for boys? Does the local school need any support with the RE curriculum or on the PTA is there a gap on the Board of Governors?)

STEP 2
1. Look at **List A**.
2. Use a different colour to write beside each item the main aim of the group/service/activity.
3. On a scale of 1-10, record whether the aim is being met (10 = aim is being fully met).
4. Take each service/activity scoring less than 5. Discuss its usefulness.
    a. Put a cross next to the ones that have outlived their usefulness and should be discontinued.
    b. Put a tick next to those whose aim still has an important use. Record what needs to be done to increase the success of the aim.

STEP 3
1. Look at **List B**.

2. Use a different colour to write beside each link the venue where it is held or the name(s) of church members involved.
3. On a scale of 1-10 record whether the church links are strong (10 = very strong links).
4. Next to activities scoring less than 7, consider and record what could be done to strengthen the links.

STEP 4
1. Look at **List C**.
2. If some have hidden links via a church member, move them to List B and follow Step 3.
3. For each activity, how could the church make an initial contact in some way? Record these ideas.

STEP 5
1. Look at **List D**.
   How could you find out if these would serve the most pressing needs of children and families are in your area are? Questionnaire? Survey? Talking to neighbours where you live? Talking to other churches?
2. Order these from the most pressing to least pressing issue from the churches point of view.

STEP 6 – Prioritising areas of development
Having discussed all these lists, prioritise areas of development. Be realistic. With a finite amount of people, resources and time you will not be able to do everything all at once.

Use your whole church mission/vision statement and MAP (Mission Action Plan) to help you in prioritising. It's paramount that whatever is decided for Ministry among children and young people is embedded in whole church thinking and not just those working with the children. It must sit within the overall church's vision and aims. Involve the church in praying about what needs to happen next.

Possible Actions
- Invest lots of resources into improving some vital, but currently less effective, activities from List A.
- Focus on making stronger links in List B or C.
- Resource something new, highlighted from the community needs of List D (try to find a day and time which will not clash with and existing provision in the locality)
- Focus on one from List A and a couple from B or C.

STEP 7 – Create an Action Plan

It's important to know what needs to happen next, so create a table similar to the one below for each area of development. Use it to identify tasks, targets and the person (or people) who will take responsibility.

Don't be over-ambitious. It is better to develop one area well rather than try to do everything and find that you do not have the capacity to complete them. Be realistic in terms of how long things take and capacity of people to undertake them.

Area of development	What needs to happen? (in chronological order)	Target date	Lead person
Start a Breakfast Club	*Find suitable premises*	*October*	*Sarah*
	Work out the financial costs (rent, food, staff…..)	*November*	*Sue*
	Recruit staff (volunteers?) and undertake CRB checks	*December*	*Rob*
	Source food suppliers	*December*	*Sue*