

Annual Report 08/09



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Chair's report

I am in the unusual position of writing an introductory Chair's Report covering a period for which I was not Chair. However, as Vice-Chair of One East Midlands over that time I can provide a thorough overview of the successes and challenges faced by One East Midlands during 2008/9.

We reanalysed our purpose and direction culminating in the finalisation of the One EM Business Plan. Once completed the plan was reinforced by a name change for the organisation at our June EGM. From our temporary name of East Midlands Single Platform we moved to that chosen by our membership; **One East Midlands**.

Looking forward from this point and recovering from a period of change we moved quickly to the identification of regional policy priorities and the creation of the Policy Strategy. This process has framed our activities for the future and is now paying dividends through the formation of strong and vibrant Policy Forums which span the big issues facing our sector.

Over the period we have celebrated several big wins on the policy front. At our AGM in November 2008 we were proud to be the first region to bring Nick Hurd, Shadow Minister for Charities, Social Enterprises and Volunteering, to the region to debate what was the newly launched Conservative Party vision *A Stronger Society; Voluntary Action in the 21st Century*. Later, in March 2009, we brought the VCS together with our

regional stakeholders to debate the effects of the economic downturn. The first of our regional Partnership events; this formed the basis of a timely look at resilience and opportunity for the sector in a difficult economic climate.

Structurally, One EM has changed significantly during the year. Most notably the Board were delighted to announce the appointment of our new Chief Executive, Rachel Quinn. Rachel joined One EM from Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire and brought wide experience in both her previous roles and also as a former Vice Chair of East Midlands Single Platform.

Lastly I would like to mention thanks to all the Board members that contributed over this time of change. In particular I would like to thank former Chair, Shahid Sharif, previously of Voice East Midlands. Shahid took the helm and steered the One EM ship through some difficult waters and on behalf of the current Board I extend our gratitude.

I hope that this report gives you a flavour of the achievements made during 08/09 and that your knowledge of our progress during 09/10 is testament to our growing momentum for positive action in the East Midlands.

Laurie Moran
Chair, One East Midlands

About One EM

One EM is the Regional Network and single platform for Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) dialogue in the East Midlands. Our role is to enable the VCS to work collaboratively to achieve better outcomes and to have strategic influence with funders and policy makers at local, regional and national level.

Vision and Mission statement

Towards the end of the financial year, One East Midlands refined its mission and strategic objectives to better reflect the role we now play.

Our vision for the future of the region is clear:

‘Strong, sustainable, inclusive and empowered communities in the East Midlands’

However, our role in achieving this vision is more complex and requires close collaboration and partnership with other stakeholders in the region.

Our Mission is to:

‘Maximise the role of the VCS as an influential, valued and equal partner in all policy development’

Key functions

To achieve this we provide the following services:

- Creating strategic links for the VCS with key stakeholders.
- Policy analysis, interpretation and ‘horizon scanning’.
- Facilitating and supporting dialogue and debate within the VCS i.e. development of policy fora, consortium support or delivery of conferences and events.
- Providing effective and timely information.

Principal activities

Policy

During the reporting period (April 08 / March 09) a policy strategy for One EM was created which is now resulting in the creation of policy forums at regional level. Policy champions were recruited for each core policy area e.g. Social Exclusion, Compact.

A range of policy briefings were also produced and disseminated, on the following policy priorities:

- Sub National Review (SNR)
- Local Area Agreements (LAA) and National Indicator 7
- Mainstreaming
- Equalities
- Commissioning
- Compact

A consultation event took place to frame a regional response to the Conservative Party's Green Paper *A Stronger Society: Voluntary Action in the 21st Century*, where we hosted a debate with Nick Hurd, Shadow Minister for Charities, Social Enterprises and Volunteering. A regional VCS response was made to the Conservative Party.

BME

Early work was started on creating a regional policy forum for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) policy with a stakeholder event held at Voice East Midlands offices. A consultation was undertaken on *Cohesion Guidance for Funders* and a response was made to the Communities and Local Government Department. A briefing was produced on the mainstreaming agenda in May 2008.

Commissioning and funding work

A commissioning briefing was undertaken in June 08.

Compact

A policy briefing was delivered in May 2008 following which a consultation was undertaken on a regional compact on the 3rd November and a paper entitled 'The Compact Debate – a response from the EM VCS' was produced. This was used to inform the regional Compact Working Group which met in December 2008. The group met again in February 2009.

Local Area Agreements

A briefing was produced in July 08 in conjunction with a workshop held at the One EM annual conference (June 08) and the first Partnership Conference (March 09).

Economic recession

A consultation with the sub-regional consortium in Derbyshire identified National Indicator 7 as an emerging policy theme requiring regional coordination. The information fed back to the East Midlands Infrastructure Steering Group (EMISG) in January 2009 led to research being undertaken with the sector on the impact of the recession on the third sector and the use of National Indicator 7 within Local Area Agreements. Our first partnership conference was held in March 2009 focusing on the economic downturn - the impact on the VCS and opportunities for the sector working in partnership with statutory bodies.

Equalities work

An equalities briefing was undertaken in June 08. Regular meetings were held with key regional stakeholders, including the EHRC, the Regional Assembly and the developing regional equalities partnership to ensure linkages with the wider VCS.

Health, Wellbeing & Social Care

A revised workplan for delivery of a regional health network and related activity programme has been developed and approved by Department of Health for delivery during 09/10.

Social Inclusion

The policy team produced a briefing in May 08 and delivered a workshop at the June 08 conference. A framework for joint development of the Social Inclusion Policy Forum was produced in collaboration with CEFET.

Sub National Review

A workshop was held at the partnership event in March 09. A briefing was provided and a regional response was disseminated.

VCS Infrastructure

One EM administered the re-election of the mandated VCS representatives at the EM Regional Assembly. The East Midlands Regional Infrastructure Consortium (EMRIC) terms of reference and business plan has been submitted to Capacitybuilders. One EM supported EMRIC communications in the development of brand, marketing materials and on-line presence (on the One EM website). Commissioning was identified through EMRIC as a priority for the region and this has been developed into a modernisation project for delivery. Production of the third sector metaplan resulted in leverage of funding for the delivery of projects in areas of identified need.

Information and Communications

The new One East Midlands website was developed in two stages with an initial launch in April 2008. The full compliment of on-line information services and forums was launched in November 2008. Members and anyone who signs up now receives regular electronic news bulletins; In Touch News and In Touch Training & Events. There is also a monthly policy briefing; In Focus. The quarterly magazine Insight was launched in January 2009. Compact was the theme of the first edition. The spring edition focused on the impacts of the recession. Branding and marketing materials were developed and produced to support the launch of One East Midlands, these included banners, membership packs and a One East Midlands mini guide.

Membership

Membership of One EM is open to any third sector organisation in the region that shares our values. One EM is managed by a Board of Trustees who are also directors of the company. The Board is recruited through a college structure to reflect a balance of the diversity of the VCS in the region and to ensure that it is reflective of both local and regional structures. In order to ensure sufficient knowledge and skills on the board to enable the organisation to lead on BME issues, 25% of the board is recruited from BME led organisations through a BME college. This process was managed jointly with Voice East Midlands.

Events and Conferences

Events hosted by One East Midlands:

Our **Annual Conference** was held on 30 June 2008 in Leicester and covered commissioning, equalities, mainstreaming, Compact, social inclusion and the Sub National Review.

Our inaugural **Partnership Event** was held in March 09 and focused on Sub National Review, Local Area Agreements and Third Sector Skills.

We held a number of **consultation events**, including: National Support Services (Improving Support) in June 08; Compact, response to the national consultation in November 08; and the Conservative Green Paper in November 08.

Policy forums

A BME policy meeting was held in November. The Compact policy group also met in December and February.

Our Structure

Organisational restructuring

We implemented a new financial operating system and carried out a full audit of office management costs in preparation for the office relocation which took place in November 08. The staff restructure led to the CEO's recruitment in December 08. In addition, a full review of all HR policies and staff terms and conditions was undertaken. In addition, we carried out a consultation with members and stakeholders on governance structure and the election of a new Board. Finally, we undertook a skills audit of the One EM Board.

Board of Trustees

Matthew Allbones	Community Action Derby
Shamsher Chohan	Leics Ethnic Minority Partnership
Dvija Mehta	Northants BME Partnership
Prakash Panchal	Leics Ethnic Minority Partnership
Yahya Thadha	Muslim Khatri Association
Parvin Ali	FATIMA Women's Network
Nizamul Chowdhury	Minority Enterprise East Midlands
Sylvia Green	Derbys Rural Community Council
Patsy Hunter	Voice East Midlands
Jane Lee	Leics & Rutland Community Councils
Laurie Moran	CEFET
Mohammed Sharief	JET Derby
Shahid Sharif	Voice East Midlands
Helen Voce	Nottingham CVS

Resigned:

Stuart Anthony	Novas Scarmen
Aruna Bhagwan	Leicester North West Community Forum

Staff

Rachel Quinn	Chief Executive
Holly Swinckels	Deputy Chief Executive
Hannah Luck	Communications and Marketing Manager
Jazz Parmar	Capacity Development Manager
Clare Anoop	Policy Analyst
Lindsay Boyle	Information and Membership Officer
Leann Leverton	HR & Finance Administrator
Sandra Casey	Administrator

One EM would also like to thank the following members of staff who have left the organisation in the past year: Kath Marriott, Holly Mills, Lynne Richardson, and Nicola Wade.

Finance and funding

The following figures are taken from the report and accounts of One East Midlands for the year ended 31 March 2009.

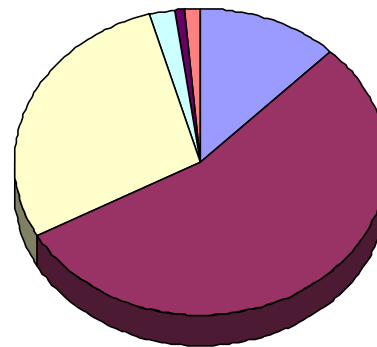
During the year, One EM's income was £421,507, and expenditure was £408,710, leaving a net surplus of £12,797 in the year. The pie-charts give a breakdown of the principal sources of income and how funds were spent in the year.

At the year end, One EM's reserves were £191,089. Of this, £107,903 were restricted funds and £83,186 were in general reserves.

Accountability

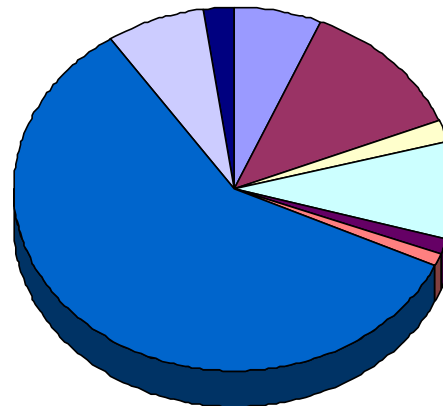
One EM's financial accounting during this period have been subject to external scrutiny and evaluation by emda, Capacitybuilders and the auditors PFK (UK) LLP. The full report and accounts are available and if you would like to receive a copy, please contact One EM's offices.

Income



Capacity Builders, £51,884
East Midlands Development Agency, £230,776
Government Office East Midlands, £120,000
Third Sector Skills, £10,000
Bank Interest, £3,401
Fees and other, £5,446

Expenditure



Events & Conferences, £26,130
Office Admin, £50,990
Management, £8,482
Professional and consultancy costs, £34,289
Travel and subsistence, £5,902
Audit and governance, £4,914
Staff costs, £239,773
Equipment, £29,399
Marketing & publicity, £8,795
Other, £36

One East Midlands is a registered charity, working with the voluntary and community and wider third sector.

One East Midlands brings together organisations that support voluntary and community groups across the region to influence and shape policy, improve services and provide a single point of contact at a regional level for all stakeholders.

One East Midlands is accountable to its members: voluntary and community organisations, frontline groups, public and private sector agencies. Through its membership, the sector is able to influence One East Midlands' work and ensure that the organisation does what it sets out to do.

For more information on our membership scheme visit the website: www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk



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Registered charity: 1094733
Company Limited by Guarantee: 4342574