

East Midlands Voluntary Youth Network Terms of Reference

Background

1. East Midlands Voluntary Youth (EMVY) was established by a group of voluntary youth organisations in 2000 as a charity. The aim of the charity was: *to help and educate young persons in the East Midlands and its environs, so as to develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and as members of society through the work, in particular, of its constituent members.*

2. Throughout the next decade EMVY, working closely with the Local Authorities and training providers, developed into a successful organisation with over 100 members. The charity's general aim was modified and became: *to develop the Voluntary Youth Sector in the East Midlands and be the voice of the Sector at a regional level.* It had 5 strategic objectives:

2.1. Youth Participation. *To act as a champion for youth participation and promote a strong voice and influence for young people in the Region.*

2.2. Network and Collaborate. *To network and collaborate to share and develop best practice and standards both regionally and nationally to build relationships across the 11 – 25 years agenda, whose priority focus is on 13 – 19 year olds.*

2.3. Research and Develop. *To research and develop, evaluate evidence to inform and influence policy affecting youth work and young people.*

2.4. Build Capacity. *To help to build organisational capacity of EMVY and its membership to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of youth work, including workforce development, training and governance.*

2.5. Curriculum. *To Promote, encourage and assist curriculum development through the promotion of progressive practice e.g. international youth work and global education.*

3. During the latter part of 2010, 2011 and 2012 the voluntary and statutory youth sectors were badly affected by the recession and change of Government. Lack of policy, direction and funding adversely affected EMVY, its membership grew smaller and its sustainability became more uncertain. The EMVY Board looked for a partnership which would allow it to continue to provide its valuable service.

4. On 1 Jan 2013 EMVY ceased to be a Charity in its own right and merged with One East Midlands (One EM) which was both a Charity and a company limited by liability. The merger was an excellent match as the strategic aims of One EM, shown below, were similar to the strategic objectives of EMVY:

4.1. Influencing. One EM will create an environment for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) to exert strategic influence and shape future policy.

4.2. Enabling. One EM will develop the sector landscape to enable and support collaboration, develop consensus and raise collective voice.

4.3. Communicating. One EM will ensure greater understanding of emerging issues through clear and effective communication routes for the VCS.

4.4. Strengthening. One EM will lead the development of regional VCS infrastructure services.

5. On merging with One EM the name of EMVY was changed to 'The EMVY Network' and a Steering Group, made up from those in the voluntary youth sector in the East Midlands, was established. The strategic objectives of EMVY were revised and the opportunity was taken to move ahead in a sector that was gradually recovering.

The EMVY Network

6. Purpose. The 'EMVY Network' exists to provide an inclusive and diverse network for the voluntary youth sector in the East Midlands in order to promote development and to provide strategic influence.

7. Membership. Membership of the 'EMVY Network' will be individuals and organisations involved in the voluntary youth sector. It is not a prerequisite for member individuals and organisations to be members of One EM. To acknowledge the fact that the both voluntary and statutory sectors need to operate far more closely than in the past the EMVY network may have Associate members from the statutory sector. In general the EMVY Network is likely to have 3 levels of membership: Regional, County/Local Authority area and Local. There will not be a charge for membership of the EMVY Network.

8. Aims and Objectives. The EMVY Network will have the same strategic aims and objectives as One EM shown in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.4. (Influencing, Communicating, Enabling and Strengthening). The EMVY Network priorities and actions will be determined by what is happening within the youth sector at the time.

9. The EMVY Steering Group. The EMVY Network will have a steering group made up of 11 elected members. The Steering Group guides the progress of the Network as well as initiating, executing and monitoring action that supports youth in the East Midlands. The Steering Group has defined Terms of Reference.

10. Funding. The EMVY Network will be self funding. The Steering group will be responsible for raising funds for the Network activity.

02/03/2013