



One East Midlands
Annual Report
2011 - 2012

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Chair's report

Deep budget cuts, uncertainty and a fast changing policy context left much of the East Midlands voluntary sector with a difficult year, with the gloom of further cuts to follow. One East Midlands was far from exempt from these pressures whilst also seeking to deliver against the increasing demand for support from our members.

In 2011/12 the Board made some difficult decisions. We approved a significant deficit budget at the start of the financial year, setting robust targets for our CEO. Our view was that, in a time of sector need, we should invest some of our reserves while we also work out whether a regional approach continues to be sustainable in the longer term. The Board also took the decision to introduce paid membership in order to help sustain our communications service; the role most valued by our members.

However, our investment reaped rewards and despite eating into some of our reserves we have emerged with greater clarity on our future role and having retained a healthy and engaged membership.

As we have entered 2012 the Board are keeping tight financial control of a breakeven budget and focussing One East Midlands efforts on activity that both supports and levers resources into the East Midlands VCS.

At the end of my third year as Chair of One East Midlands, I am delighted that we continue to provide a valuable service and to have this opportunity to commend the work of the organisation over 2011/12.

Fiona White
Chair, One East Midlands



Chief Executive's report

I think it is fair to say that 2011/12 was not a good year to be:

- a) regional in focus or;
- b) VCS infrastructure

However, with a talented and hardworking staff team alongside me and a committed and passionate Board providing support and guidance we made a pretty good year of it in the end.

At the start of the year the One EM Board were clear that we would not continue if a forward role for the organisation, that adds significant value for our membership, could not be found. It was found! Our members told us they still needed our help and our statutory partners looked to us more and more as they needed to build or maintain connections with the sector for the benefit of communities.

So the future is looking good.

Rachel Quinn
Chief Executive, One East Midlands



About

One East Midlands is the regional network for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in the East Midlands region.

Our role is to ensure that all elements of the VCS play a valued role in the development of policies and strategies that impact on the individuals and communities in our region. In particular, we prioritise our support to those parts of the VCS with specialist perspectives and knowledge or working with those communities facing most disadvantage. This role is encapsulated in our mission statement:

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

One EM is a membership organisation and our members set our purpose and strategic direction. We have four core strategic functions that enable us to deliver our mission:

1. **Influencing**

Creating an environment for the VCS to exert strategic influence through:

- Developing strategic links;
- Shaping policy and;
- Advocating the role of the VCS.

2. **Enabling**

Developing the sector 'landscape' to:

- Enable and support collaboration;
- Develop consensus and raise collective voice;
- Support networks and sector representatives;
- Facilitate wider 'third sector' consensus;
- And leveraging resources.

3. **Communicating**

Ensuring greater understanding through effective communication:

- Website and e-bulletin services;
- Magazines;
- Promoting the sector and our members.

4. **Strengthening**

Supporting the development of the sector through:

- Training;
- Sharing best practice and supporting collaboration;
- Events and networking opportunities.

One EM works closely with a wide range of third sector specialist networks across the region. Our role is to understand the membership, priorities and linkages for each of these networks and ensure that opportunities for them to deliver against these priorities are made available. This role is carried out through four types of activity:

1. Developing strategic links and creating opportunities for the East Midlands VCS to represent and embed issues and concerns at the regional level, advocating for specialist representation on key regional skills bodies.

2. Working closely with regional VCS and wider third sector networks to understand both specialist and generic sub-sector priorities.
3. Linking regional and local networks with other specialist networks where there are shared objectives to increase voice and influence and reduce deep inequality in the region
4. Informing the VCS on general policy and strategic developments at the regional level and coordinating VCS perspectives.

One EM directly facilitates some, but not all of these networks. Where we do not directly facilitate networks, we will work collaboratively to ensure strong links and shared understanding. One EM provides direct facilitation support to networks which are cross specialism (e.g. drawing together members from several different networks to achieve a shared objective), which meet an identified gap at regional level or have been identified as a development priority by our members. Whether networks are One EM or sector led, they must all have the following characteristics:

- Member led, with democratic mechanisms for governance arrangements
- Accountable to members and stakeholders
- Open to further membership by organisations with similar aims and objectives.

Communications

Online

Alongside the One EM website, located at www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk, receiving an average of 2,500+ visits per month in 11/12, One EM’s social media continued to flourish, with over 500 followers on Twitter, nearly 13,000 visits to our YouTube channel and our blog receiving over 200 visitors in both February and March 2012. During 2012, we also launched our own network on Linked-In.

E-bulletins

In addition to the fortnightly news and training & events e-bulletins and the monthly policy e-bulletin, which are circulated to over 1,000 email addresses, One EM continued to circulate monthly specialist e-bulletins to the BME, Health & Social Care, EVDC (England Volunteering Development Council), Community Empowerment and, in conjunction with EMFAN, the e-bulletin for the EMFAN network during 11/12. For further information on any of the e-bulletins email information@one-em.org.uk.

In print

One EM produced two issues of our Insight magazine during 11/12, which were individually sponsored by the Forward Communities and EMFAN projects. In addition, Forward Communities published its final project report *Ducks in a Row*. All One EM publications can be downloaded at www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/oem-publications. We also produced over 20 case studies in 11/12 on various VCS organisations in the region. All One EM case studies can be downloaded at www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/case-studies.



Membership

Membership Survey

Following One EM's first membership survey in May 2010, we carried out a second survey of our members in November 2011 to discover their views on our work, purposes and values, influence and how our services can be improved. The survey also questioned respondents on the introduction of paid membership.

Key findings from the survey, which received 50 responses, included:

- 95% of respondents rated that we delivered our information function well, followed by "maintaining regional networks" (62%) and "advocating in the region" (61%).
- 71% of respondents rated our events in 2011 as excellent or good.
- 91% of respondents rated our website and e-bulletin as excellent or good.
- Over 60% of respondents agreed that we fulfilled our purpose within our core values.
- 75% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that we had made them more aware of opportunities for them to influence.
- 40% of respondents, who responded positively about the introduction of paid membership, would prefer paid membership to be on a sliding scale with smaller organisations paying less.

New Membership Scheme

In February 2012, One EM re-launched our membership scheme, introducing paid membership. Membership charges were introduced to help sustain our core functions. Following member consultation, the scheme was made available on a sliding scale to ensure that small VCS organisations continued to benefit from free or low cost membership. At the same time, we also simplified our membership scale from three down to two categories of Full Members, open to all VCS organisations in the region, and Friends, who are non-VCS organisations supporting the work of One EM.

In addition, we introduced a new range of membership benefits, including:

- Free email bulletins, Insight magazines and policy briefings
- Free networking events
- Free attendance at the annual policy conference
- 25% discount on all other One EM events
- Priority access and discounts on training
- Reduced cost event and job advertising.

Following the launch of our new membership scheme, at the end of 11/12, we had 125 members. For further information on becoming a member visit www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/membership.

EMFAN

Expert funding advice is essential for growing and sustaining VCS action in the East Midlands. With good advice groups can attract funding to deliver projects and services that help their communities.

Funded by the Big Lottery Fund, East Midlands Funding Advice Network (EMFAN) exists to ensure VCS groups get the best possible funding advice, to encourage investment in civil society in the East Midlands. The network aims to make sure funding advisors have all the information, training and contacts they need to do an excellent job.

During the summer of 2011 EMFAN launched two new websites to improve funding advice in the region. Fanoogle, located at www.fanoogle.org.uk, aims to help VCS organisations find funding advice services in their local area.

The second website Funding Monitor, located at www.fundingmonitor.org.uk, aims to enable anyone involved in grant funding in the region to share information and statistics about the process in order to improve future grant applications.

Training of and sharing information with funding advice workers remains an important part of the work of EMFAN and in 11/12 this was no exception,

with accredited training taking place across the region, alongside two regional network events focusing on advising groups on sustainability, and the future of funding advice. The 300 network members also received monthly e-bulletins, providing updates on both the network and county, regional and national funding news.

At the end of 2011 the management of the EMFAN project transferred from the EMFAN Manager, Jonny Gutteridge, who had lead the project since its launch in September 2009, to the One EM staff team who have continued to move the EMFAN project forward.

Funding for the EMFAN project continues until September 2013 and One EM will continue to develop its services further. For further information visit www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/emfan.



The Funding Monitor



Forward Communities

Funded by the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) and carried out by New College Stamford and One EM, the Forward Communities Project began in June 2010 and was completed in December 2011.

Key to the project was the 'dual perspective' approach, with work carried out in both the further education and VCS, and during its lifetime the project engaged with a total of 193 individuals, including contributors from 16 of the 18 regional FE colleges, 103 VCS organisations, six East Midlands local authorities and one district council.

The methodology the project adopted included:

- Face-to-face interviews with FE colleges (focusing on community provision) and local authority adult and community learning services;
- Questionnaires to FE colleges, VCS organisations and VCS infrastructure support organisations;
- An interactive partnership event on cultivating joint working, and;
- A network focus group event with EMFEC (East Midlands Further Education Council) on community development.

The primary objective of the joint project was to develop an understanding of the current relationships between VCS learning providers and FE colleges. The project made recommendations on how this could be improved to develop joint working opportunities, which enhanced delivery in both sectors, including activity to explore the development of progression pathways.

What became obvious over the 18 months of the project was that there was a real willingness amongst those involved in learning and skills, to work together more collaboratively, despite the barriers identified. All sectors acknowledged that they need help in navigating the sometimes difficult conditions that can prevail when embarking on a successful collaboration. New College Stamford and One EM were encouraged by both the aspiration and appetite of organisations to finding solutions to more equitable partnership working.

For further information visit
www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/forwardcommunities.

To download *Ducks in a Row*, the final report of the Forward Community project, visit
www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/ducksinarow.

Health & Social Care Network

Hosted by One EM and funded by the Department of Health (DH) through Regional Voices, the East Midlands Third Sector Health & Social Care Network fosters a more progressive approach to the development of health and social care provision in the region.

As a strategic partner to the DH, the network is an opportunity for third sector organisations to influence health & social care policy and delivery by:

- Linking third sector organisations with the relevant, new and developing health structures
- Building the capacity and capability of the third sector to engage with the health and social care agenda.
- Acting as a critical friend to health decision makers by providing coordinated responses to consultations and programmes.
- Developing regional health forums; bringing together third sector organisations with an interest in health by facilitating communication and collaboration.

The East Midlands network increased in membership from 155 in March 2010 to 240 members by March 2011. Members provide community services, regenerate neighbourhoods, support individuals, promote volunteering and tackle discrimination. Network members have received a dedicated health

& social care monthly e-bulletin since October 2010.

During the year, the East Midlands network supported a number of DH events with the region's VCS, including a listening event on the new Health and Social Care Bill, a Future Forum event on the transition of LINKs and the future role of Health Watch.

The network also responded on behalf of its members to the Public Health White Paper, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Health & Wellbeing Strategies consultations, and produced a series of briefings including on GP consortia and the health transition.

Other work by the network during 11/12 included:

- Research on the effectiveness of the roll out of personal budgets across the region
- A series of interviews on the success of the two local HealthWatch pathfinders in Derby and Leicestershire
- The collation of examples of Health & Wellbeing Boards working with the VCS
- Mapping of VCS involvement with Clinical Commissioning Groups.

For further information on the East Midlands Third Sector Health & Social Care Network visit www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/healthandsocialcare.

Other Networks

BME

During 2011/12 One EM continued to use earned income to support the East Midlands Third Sector BME (Black, Minority Ethnic) network, which is currently unfunded. During this time the network increased to 130 members, who all receive a dedicated monthly BME e-bulletin. For further information visit www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/bme.

Community Empowerment

In Spring 2011, One EM took over the East Midlands Empowerment Partnership website, which has now been merged into the One EM website following the closure of the East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (EMEP). As part of this, we re-launched the Community Empowerment network, which by March 2012 had increased to 85 members, all receiving a dedicated monthly Empowerment e-bulletin. For further information visit www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/communityempowerment.

As part of our involvement with the EMEP, during March 2012 we organised a series of three Community Insight Visits, and accompanying case studies, to nominated community organisations across the region, enabling participants to gain an insight into their work. We would like to thank Soft Touch Arts, Ecoworks and the Oasis Community Centre for hosting these visits.

EVDC East Midlands

One EM continues to act as secretariat for the England Volunteering Development Council (EVDC) East Midlands network, which increased to over 188 members in 2011/12, who all receive a dedicated monthly EVDC East Midlands e-bulletin. For further information visit www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/evdc.

In November 2011, 60 delegates attended the network's regional volunteering conference, which included key note speeches by the Director of the Institute for Volunteering Research and the Locality Lead for Community Organisers. Network members also participated in an annual survey on changes to volunteering in the region.

Safer Future Communities

In February 2011, One EM was appointed to work in partnership with NAVCA and CLINKS to run four local networks engaging communities with Police and Crime Commissioners in Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire, as part of the Safer Future Communities programme. For further information visit www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/sfc.

Regional Voices

In each of the nine English regions there is a sister network to One EM, which champions the engagement of the third sector within the region. On a national level, Regional Voices connects each of the regional networks, enabling the critical connection between national, regional and local infrastructure. For further information visit www.regionalvoices.net.

The Department of Health Strategic Partnership programme is one of the most collaborative contracts delivered through Regional Voices. Regional Voices provides the vital link allowing One EM to connect from local to national and champion the VCS in the new and changing landscape.



Timeline

April 2011

One EM welcomed back Lindsay Boyle, Communications and Research Coordinator back from maternity leave and waved goodbye to Hannah Luck, Communications Manager, One EM’s longest standing staff member.

May 2011

The Forward Communities Cultivating Joint Working event took place in Nottingham and the Health & Social Care Network organised a Department of Health Listening Event on the Health & Social Care Bill in Leicester.

June 2011

One EM and the Parliamentary Outreach service organised two joint training sessions in Nottingham and Derby. On behalf of our members, we also responded to the government’s Best Value Guidance consultation.

July 2011

One EM moved offices, whilst remaining at the Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre. EMFAN launched its Funding Monitor and Fanoogle websites and organised its Funding For Real event in Grantham. One EM undertook research on the impact of spending cuts on VCS organisations working in the fields of housing and homelessness.

August 2011

One EM sent an offer of support to all potential Transforming Local Infrastructure partnerships across the region. Forward Communities sponsored the Summer 2011 edition of our Insight magazine.

September 2011

One EM responded to the Open Public Services White Paper consultation on behalf of its members, and supported Voluntary Action Rutland's first annual sector support event.

October 2011

Rachel Quinn, CEO of One EM, become the first voluntary sector chief in England to head-up an economic investment body, being appointed as Deputy Chair of the East Midlands ERDF programme. The Health & Social Care Network organised a second Listening Event on the Health & Social Care Bill in Derby. EMFAN sponsored the Autumn edition of our Insight magazine.

November 2011

One EM carried out its annual membership survey. In partnership, One EM, RAWM and CLINKS organised a Sustainable Funding event in Birmingham. We also supported EVDC EM conference in Nottingham.

December 2011

The EMFAN Sustaining and Transforming event took place in Derby. One EM waved goodbye to Jonny Gutteridge, EMFAN manager.

January 2012

One EM continued to support the VSNW Listen Value Invest campaign, gathering case studies from its members to highlight the issues affecting the VCS.

February 2012

One EM was appointed to deliver the Safer Future Communities networks in Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire. We also set up its Big List, outlining the cuts impacting on VCS organisations in the region.

March 2012

One EM re-launched its membership scheme and, in partnership with Business in the Community, organised Community Insight Visits to Soft Touch Arts, Ecoworks and Oasis Community Centre, as part of its involvement in the East Midlands Empowerment Partnership. Forward Communities published its final project report, entitled Ducks in a Row. We also responded on behalf of our members to the Big Lottery Fund's Building Capabilities for Impact and Legacy consultation.

Structure

Board of Trustees

Ilyas Mohammed Aziz	Pakistan Centre
Dawn Elliott	Voluntary Action Broxtowe
Sandra Hopkins	The University of Leicester
Angela Kandola	AWAAZ, Asian Mental Health Resource Unit
Terry Kirby	East Midlands Transport Activists Roundtable
Laurie Moran	CEFET
Karon Phillips	Citrus Consultancy
Simon Richards	
Ron Simpson	East Midlands Neighbourhood Watch
Pat Smith	East Midlands Federation of Sport and Recreation
Will Wakefield	Nottinghamshire YMCA
Fiona White	Community Lincs
Hassan Yaqoob	Lincolnshire Research Observatory/NHS
	Lincolnshire BME Network

Resigned

Andy Chick	
Tirathpal Naute	Adhar
Dawn Wale	Nottingham CVS

Staff

Rachel Quinn	Chief Executive
Henry Muchiyani	Health Networks Officer
Jayne Quantrill	Learning & Skills Development Officer
Lindsay Boyle	Communications & Research Officer
Claire Chapman	Information & Membership Officer
Leann Leverton	HR & Finance Administrator
Sandra Quinn	Administrator

One EM would like to thank the following members of staff who have left the organisation in the past year: Hannah Luck and Jonny Gutteridge.

Finance summary

The following figures are taken from the report and accounts of One EM for the year ended 31 March 2012.

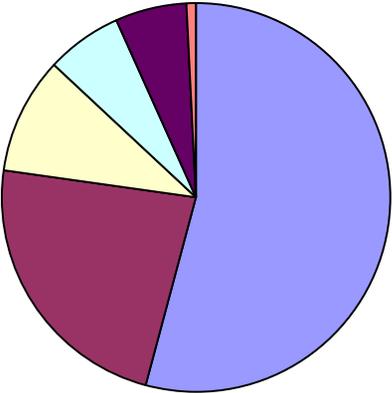
During the year, One EM’s income was £181,707 and expenditure was £212,863, leaving a net loss of £31,156; utilising restricted funds carried forward from 2010/11. The pie charts give a breakdown of the principal sources of income and how funds were spent during the year.

At year end, One EM’s reserves were £94,331. Of this, £35,772 were restricted funds and £58,559 were in general reserves.

Accountability

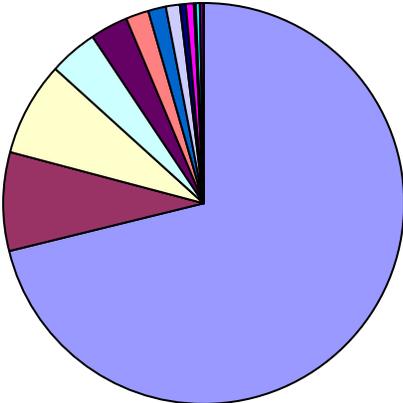
One EM’s financial accounting during the period has been subject to external scrutiny and evaluation by Capacitybuilders, Big Lottery Fund, Department for Work and Pensions and independent examiners, Community Accounting Plus. The full report and accounts are available on request. Please contact One EM’s offices to receive a copy.

Income



- Big Lottery Fund £80,443
- Yorkshire & Humber Regional Forum £33,935
- NRCEE (Accord Housing Association) £14,500
- Awards 4 All £9,511
- East Midlands Regional Empowerment Partnership £8,570
- Volunteering England £1,369
- Sundry income £10

Expenditure



- Staff costs £152,116
- Activities & events £17,072
- Overheads £16,180
- Marketing & publicity £8,102
- IT £6,375
- Other staff & volunteer costs £4,116
- Professional & consultancy costs £2,940
- Audit & governance £2,588
- Staff training £1,258
- Depreciation £1,081
- Equipment £862
- Print & stationery £633
- Project research £280
- Other £122

Membership List

Full Members

Action Deafness • Action for Blind People • Action Homeless (Leicester) Ltd • African Institute for Social Development • Age UK Derby & Derbyshire • Age UK Lincoln • Amber Valley CVS • Artreach • Asian Tower Club • Attend • Base 51 • Bellinge Community House • Business in the Community (Nottingham) • CEFET • Children's Links • Communities in Partnership • Community & Voluntary Partners (Bolsover) • Community Accounting Plus • Community Action Derby • Community Lincs • Corby VCS • Cruse Bereavement Care - Nottingham • Daventry Volunteer Centre • Derby & Derbyshire Race & Equality Commission • Derby Toc H Childrens Camp • Derbyshire Friend • Derbyshire Learning & Development Consortium • Derbyshire Mind • Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham • East Midlands Federation of Sport & Recreation • East Midlands Neighbourhood Watch Forum • East Midlands Transport Activists Roundtable • East Midlands Voluntary Youth • EMPOWER • Enterprise Solutions Northamptonshire • Epilepsy Action Nottingham Branch • Erewash Voluntary Action CVS Ltd • Faith in Action, Mission & Ministry Team • Faith to Engage East Midlands • Faiths Forum East Midlands • Gedling CVS • Groundwork Derby & Derbyshire • High Peak CVS • Home Start South West Lincolnshire • Home Start UK East Midlands • Hostels Liaison Group • Inspire Nottingham • IVO Resource & Day Centre • Just Lincolnshire • Le Leche League Northampton • Learn2learn Comprehensive CIC • Leicester & County CDA Ltd • Leicester City LINK • Leicester LGBT Centre • Leicestershire AIDS Support Service • Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living • LeicestHERday Trust • Lincolnshire Action Trust • Lincolnshire Association of People with Disabilities • Lincolnshire CVS • Links: The Chesterfield & NE. Derbyshire CVS & Action Ltd • Mansfield CVS • Mansfield Woodhouse Community Development Group • Mowmacre Tenants & Residents Association • Muslim Khatri Association • NAVO • Nene Valley Community Action • Newark & Sherwood CVS & Volunteer Centre • North Derbyshire Voluntary Action • Northampton Volunteering Centre • Northamptonshire Community Foundation • Northamptonshire CVS • Northamptonshire Voluntary Youth Action • Nottingham Asian Arts Council • Nottingham CVS • Nottingham Elders Forum • Nottinghamshire Deaf Society • Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust • Nottinghamshire YMCA • Open Doors Forum • Pakistan Centre • Playworks Nottingham • Pragati Group • Real Partners CIC • Rethink Nottingham • Rural Action Derbyshire • Rushcliffe CVS • Saffron Resource Centre • SEEM • Self Help Nottingham • SERVE • Sherwood Forest Trust • Shruti Arts • South Derbyshire CVS & Volunteer Centre • South Holland Citizens Advice Bureau • South Northamptonshire Volunteer Bureau • SOVA Youth Offending Service • sported. • St Martin's Cathedral Properties • Syston & District Volunteer Centre • The Mighty Creatives • The Pathfinder Trust Ltd • The Race Equality Centre • Transcend • TravelWatch East Midlands • Union of Pakistani & Kashmiri Organisations • Urban Challenge - VCS Lincoln • Vinefruits Community Interest Company • VISTA - the Royal Society for the Blind • Voluntary Action LeicesterShire • Voluntary Action Rutland • Volunteer Centre - Chesterfield & North East Derbyshire • Volunteer Centre Buxton • Volunteer Centre Derbyshire Dales • WEA East Midlands • Wellbeing Works

Friends of One EM

Ashfield District Council • ASRA Housing Group • Big Lottery Fund • Harborough District Council • Lloyds TSB • Midlands TUC • MTL Consultants • South Holland District Council • Voluntary Sector Development/Calmspace Ltd

Thank You

One East Midlands would like to thank the following organisations for their support in 2011/12.



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 visit the website at www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk.



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Registered charity: 1094733
Company Limited by Guarantee: 4342574