

East of England and East Midlands Regional Youth Work Unit

Terms of Reference

Effective Date: 1st January 2026

Review Date: 1st January 2027

1. Purpose

The East of England and East Midlands Regional Youth Work Unit (RYWU) operates as a cross-sector professional network for local authorities, voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations, and other stakeholders committed to supporting young people. The network aims to:

- Improve outcomes for young people through collaborative, evidence-based approaches.
- Share effective practice and foster innovation in youth work.
- Support workforce development by promoting continuous professional development (CPD) and formal qualifications.
- Amplify youth voice by embedding participation and advisory structures.
- Influence policy at local, regional, and national levels.
- Promote partnership working across sectors and regions.

2. Strategic Alignment

These Terms of Reference reflect the vision and mission outlined in the Strategic Plan 2025–2028:

- **Vision:** Empower and nurture the potential of young people for a brighter future.
- **Mission:** Advocate for youth rights, foster collaboration, and deliver inclusive, innovative youth development initiatives.

Core Values: Inclusivity, Empowerment, Innovation, Collaboration, Advocacy, Integrity.

3. Key Objectives

Aligned with the Strategic Plan, the network will focus on:

a. Workforce Development

- Deliver training, workshops, and CPD opportunities.
- Advocate for JNC-recognised qualifications.

b. Youth Engagement

- Establish youth advisory boards.
- Create structured processes for youth participation.

c. Communication & Connection

- Enhance online presence and engagement.
- Link local organisations with national developments.

d. Showcasing Good Practice

- Highlight and share innovative projects.
- Develop case studies and promote regional success stories.

4. Membership

Core Members:

- Local Authority leads responsible for commissioning and delivering youth services.
- Voluntary and Community Sector strategic partners focused on youth work.

Standing Invitees:

- National/regional representatives (e.g., National Youth Agency, UK Youth, DCMS)

5. Governance & Administration

- **Meetings:** Monthly, hosted online.
- **Chairs:** Two chairs, one from each region (East of England and East Midlands), elected from among core members.
- **Decision-Making:** Consensus-based; formal votes where necessary.

6. Reporting & Accountability

- Annual review of objectives and outcomes.
- Reports shared with regional stakeholders and national bodies as appropriate.

Appendix: Core Membership

Local authority leads and voluntary and community sector partners from:

East of England

Bedford Borough
Cambridgeshire
Central Bedfordshire
Essex
Hertfordshire
Luton
Norfolk
Peterborough
Southend-on-Sea
Suffolk
Thurrock

East Midlands

Derby
Derbyshire
Leicester
Leicestershire
Lincolnshire
North Northamptonshire
Nottingham City
Nottinghamshire
Rutland
West Northamptonshire