



SOUTH WEST REGIONAL YOUTH IMPACT HUB DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE



November 2016

Who we are

A peer network of youth sector organisations working in the South West of England, who come together to share knowledge and expertise, in order to better understand and increase the impact of our work.

The SW Regional Impact Network has evolved from the Evidencing Impact Network formerly run through the Regional Youth Work Unit at Learning South West, and South West Forum's Impact Hub. It is led by South West Forum, and supported by the Centre for Youth Impact. It is one of seven Regional Impact Networks supported by the Centre across England.

Why we exist

The network exists to support youth organisations to undertake meaningful evaluation and impact measurement. It does this by providing a 'safe space' in which members can share issues or challenges relating to impact evaluation, seek advice from peers, and access support that enables them to develop solutions that work for them and that will inform their practice.

We aim to support network members to:

- Understand how we achieve outcomes in work with young people
- Strive to improve the quality of the evidence that we gather and use that evidence to inform practice
- Determine the most appropriate data to collect and relevant tools to collect it with
- Be better able to assess, appraise and interpret evidence and track the journeys young people make through involvement with youth work
- Explore standardisation of impact evaluation and determine the meaning of 'good enough' evidence in youth work contexts
- Demonstrate the value of youth work and explain how it helps young people achieve positive outcomes that are valued by policy makers and young people alike

Collectively, we want to:

- Share best practice and stay open to innovation
- Ensure we keep young people at the centre of impact measurement and evaluation
- Use the findings from impact measurement and evaluation to inform our delivery and practice
- Identify shared solutions to impact measurement, potentially through greater take-up of common frameworks, or moving towards shared measurement of collective impact

Who the network is made up of

- The network is open to any organisation working with young people in the South West of England that has an interest in developing their impact measurement practice.
- Individuals attending network meetings may come from a variety of backgrounds and do not need to be an 'evaluation specialist' or in an evaluation-focused role.
- While the network exists primarily to provide peer-to-peer support for practitioners and delivery organisations, those who commission and fund youth work are welcomed
- We encourage representation from a diverse range of organisations, including both the voluntary and statutory sector, and from organisations starting out on their evidence journeys, as well as those who may be some way further on.

How the network works

- Regular network meetings will be convened by South West Forum and supported by the Centre for Youth Impact. These are open meetings that are free to access.
- Network meetings will provide a forum for network members to share their work and the issues and challenges that they are grappling with in relation to evidence and impact measurement, as well as share successes and examples of good practice.
- We will encourage a 'coaching culture' encouraging network members to explore different options, and identify solutions that work for them, in their particular context. We recognise that there are a multitude of different ways in which organisations can gather robust, meaningful information about the services that they provide for young people, and support members to find the best fit for their organisation
- Members of the network will be invited to bring examples of their work and draw on their own experiences and expertise in supporting other members of the group.
- The content for the meetings will be shaped by the interests and priorities of the group. Network members will be asked for their input into future agendas, including suggestions for external speakers.
- Wherever possible we will share materials and resources referred to in the meetings, with the permission of the person who developed the materials.
- We encourage network members to draw on the expertise of their peers between network meetings, and will provide regular e-bulletins and a space on South West Forum's website where documents and evaluation models can be shared.
- Network meetings may provide input on specific aspects of impact measurement, and network members will be signposted to relevant training, including training provided by the Centre for Youth Impact, wherever relevant.

What we ask of members

- Commitment to demonstrating the following principles during network meetings:
 - Being open
 - Supportive
 - Curious
 - Positive
 - Solutions-focused
- Willingness to share their work and use their knowledge and expertise to support others
- Regular attendance at meetings regular attendance at meetings to ensure consistency and the development of a committed, productive community
- To share information about the network with individuals and organisations who would benefit from being a part of it.

How to join

Organisations who would like to join the network can email Gill Millar (gill@southwestforum.org.uk) to request be added to the mailing list.