

Midlands Region of YMCAs

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Midlands Region of YMCAs

The Midlands YMCA Region covers the Government Regions of East Midlands and West Midlands and also includes Milton Keynes YMCA (South East Government Region). There is currently not a YMCA in Hereford although Worcester YMCA does deliver some work in Herefordshire.

The Midlands Region is currently one of 9 Regions within the English National Council of YMCAs. The YMCAs in the Region, via the English National Council's affiliation to the European and World Alliances of YMCAs, are members of the largest voluntary youth Movement in the world. See www.ymca.org.uk.

The YMCA was founded on Christian principles (one of which is servant leadership, following the example of Christ), aims & purposes. Each YMCA in the Region maintains a Christian ethos with objects in their governing documents that reflect the Christian basis. The Region supports YMCAs to maintain and develop their Christian ethos.

Geographic Locations of Affiliated YMCAs

No.	Government Regions		
	East Midlands	West Midlands	South East
1	Derbyshire	Birmingham	Milton Keynes (including Oxon, Bucks & Luton)
2	Lincolnshire	Burton-on-Trent	
3	Leicester	Coventry & Warwickshire	
4	Nottinghamshire	Redditch	
5	Northamptonshire	Stoke-on-Trent	
6	YMCA Training (Northampton)	Sutton Coldfield	
7	YMCA Training (Lincoln)	Wellington (Shropshire)	
8		West Bromwich & District	
9		Wolverhampton	
10		Worcester	

Operating from approximately 74 locations (recent estimate of geographical sites in operation).

Diversity of Provision

There are 16 Member YMCAs in the Region with a combined turnover of almost £25 million. There is also one YMCA Training Centre, which is a branch of YMCA Training. YMCA Training is a member YMCA with a national coverage and a turnover of £20 million, which networks with all the YMCA Regions in England. Y Care International, the International Development Agency of the YMCA Movement also operates via its Campaigns and Global Youth Work in the Region.

As reflected across the YMCA Movement there is a great diversity in provision amongst the YMCAs in the Midlands Region.

There is tremendous innovation and a real willingness to work together (between individual YMCAs and YMCAs working with YMCA England). There is some excellent good practice and a wealth of resources (due to the size of some of the YMCAs). Many of the YMCAs are recognised as key voluntary sector partners in their respective local authorities / counties / districts.

Areas of work (this is a summary of work carried out):

Number of bed spaces	Approx 1200
Number of childcare places provided by the YMCA every week	Approx 600
Number of young people receiving personal & social development opportunities per week	Approx 3500
Number of people who take part in life long learning opportunities offered by the YMCA every week	Approx 1000
Number of people who are employed by the YMCA	Approx 1000
Number of people who volunteer (including Board Members) for the YMCA every week	Approx 300

- Supported Housing – including specific groups – e.g. young parents
- Move-on accommodation
- Floating / Tenancy Support
- General needs housing
- Direct access emergency accommodation
- Youth Work
- Drugs / substance misuse / alcohol work
- Young people’s advocacy and rights work
- Prison / young offenders work (including YMCA England’s Partnership in Prisons)
- Parenting work
- Children’s Work (pre-school day care, out-of-schools work, holiday play-schemes)
- Work in schools – extended schools services
- International work – exchanges, partnerships, Y-Care International
- Furniture recycling / Charity / retail fundraising shops (most working with YMCA England)
- Life skills / ICT / vocational and non-vocational training / learning
- Sports, health, exercise & fitness programmes
- Healthy Living programmes
- Community Arts programmes
- Community facilities

Regional Committee**Purpose of the Regional Committee**

- The forum for lay and staff members to formulate the Regional Vision and strategy
- To develop, own and lead the realisation of the Regional Vision & Strategy
- To encourage the realisation of the Movement vision in the Region
- To own the annual CEO/Chairs meeting as a means of consulting on the Vision and strategy and for developing strategy for 1-2 years out
- Oversight of the Regional Annual Meeting as a celebration of the achievements of the last year

How this might work out:

- The Regional Committee monitors the realisation of the vision & strategy.
- The Regional Committee identifies impediment to the realisation of the vision & strategy and proposes how to overcome it.
- The Regional Committee takes expert input to help identify the regional strategic trends and regional policy/initiatives that will impact on our work
- The Regional Committee identifies priorities and opportunities to realise the vision

Membership of the Regional Committee

Typically, regional committee members have been Chairs and Member association Chief Executives. The value of Chairs and CEO's to the regional Committee is that they have executive authority in their Member associations and can calibrate Regional Committee strategies against Member association priorities and capability. However, to formulate vision and strategy does not require this executive authority and we should encourage membership by technical experts (e.g. housing, youth work), young people, people with vision for the region and people outside the movement.

The Committee should meet quarterly and in a single venue each year to facilitate travelling.

Regional Vision

"The YMCA's vision is of an inclusive Christian Movement, transforming communities so that all young people truly belong, contribute and thrive"

Regional Strategy

Regional objectives should enable member associations to achieve more by working closer together and helping them to realise the Vision in the Region.

- **Member associations build partnerships with each other so that more young people have the opportunity of benefiting from an association's expertise**
- **To be recognised by regional bodies as a leading provider of programmes and services to young people (objective 4)**
- **To enabling young people everywhere in the region (including where there is currently no YMCA activities) to truly belong, contribute and thrive.**
- **To assist member Associations in their Christian Spiritual development and to be part of an inclusive Christian Movement**

These could also be considered enablers because the true realisation of the vision is transformed communities.

How this might work out:

- A Regional Body funds one YMCA to deliver a programme across the Regional area. That YMCA "sub-contracts" work to other Member associations to deliver in parts of the Regional area
- Member Association staff invited to contribute to or lead policy development by regional bodies
- Regional training/learning events where expertise and experience in a member association is shared with other Member associations
- Interchange of staff between Member associations for training and development purposes
- Pooling/sharing of resources that reduces overheads eg payroll, accounting services, joint procurement
- Member associations can bid for work where the expertise resides in another YMCA in the region and sub-contract the work to that YMCA.

Regional Executive Officer

The role is to provide support, representation and development guidance to the affiliated members YMCAs in the Region, to enable the YMCAs to deliver the best possible services and outcomes for young people and their communities. The role also supports the work of the Regional Executive and other Forums in the Region.