



## CHRISTIAN YOUTH NETWORK : TERMS OF REFERENCE

The purpose of this terms of reference is to set out the aims, objectives, roles and responsibilities of members in their collaboration and commitment to **JUNCTION: the Stoke-on-Trent Christian youth network**.

### OURSTATUS

We are a **non constituted** voluntary group consisting of both organisations & individuals with a focus on young people & the Christian faith.

### OURPURPOSE

The Stoke-on-Trent Christian youth network is an **all prayer, all action 'purpose-driven'** network of Christian youth workers, church leaders, youth organisations,, parents/carers professionals & key Christian influencers delivering **on innovative Christian engagement** for young people living in Stoke on Trent.

The network provides a platform to connect ,support, share **good practice, resources and knowledge** , and to **coordinate city wide Christian youth events focused delivery of prayer, outreach & discipleship - to maximise the offer & exposure to evangelical Christianity for young people across our city.**

The network **can** provide a **go to**” network of consultancy ,advice, guidance & support for national or local church bodies, youth organisations & / or initiatives supporting the voice of young people in the Christian sector.

**JUNCTION** is a **Christian 'apolitical, non-denominational movement'** with no other agenda than **faith based positive outcomes** for young people fostering **dynamic prayer, mission /outreach & discipleship** & specifically tackling young people's related issues including, not limited to:

- Safeguarding young people effectively; providing a place of security, comfort and inspiration.
- Creating a sense of belonging, with authentic youth ownership and voice; being transformational, offering new experiences & opportunities.

- Offering effective 'early help' intervention, altering pathways to thrive, not just survive.
- Signposting interested parties (both adults & young people) to opportunities for Educating, up-skilling , motivating & raising aspirations.
- Giving direct access to those with 'lived experience' & are positive role models.
- Improving mental health by delivering 'instant access' to mental health support.
- Bettering mental and physical wellbeing, creating sustainable, lasting change; empowering young people to drive social change themselves and pro-model positive futures to their peers.
- Reducing discrimination towards young people & marginalisation amongst minority groups.
- Curbing anti-social behaviour, gangs, crime and violence, by reducing boredom, giving purpose & creating opportunity for change.
- Improving life chances & lifestyle choices by infusing value, raising aspirations & imparting resilience & tenacity.

## OUR **AIMS**

JUNCTION is a **values led** citywide Christian movement to:

- Provide young people with dynamic opportunities to encounter a living relationship with God **through prayer, mission/outreach & discipleship**
- To demonstrate the practical, outworking of the love of God through social justice & tackling youth poverty.
- Resource & support each other, adding value to local Christian youthwork offers.
- Provide exceptional, age-differentiated programmes & activities, that are truly 'community-fed and community-led' with LIVE LOUD youth voice at the core.
- 'Connect the dots' on Christian youth services & provision
- Value the knowledge, understanding and talent in our community- giving all an equal voice & fostering the transformational impact of Christian lived experience.
- Promote generous leadership and authentic partnerships across denominations & communities, fostering community cohesion & cross generational impact.
- Deliver consistent & connected support in the daytime and evenings, weekdays, and weekends.
- Regenerating & transforming local church / community & youth space(s), bringing life.
- Creating dynamic youth engagement offers that present the Christian faith in ways that are relatable & can be understood .
- To have transparency regarding funding collaborations and consortiums.

## #OURSTATEMENTOFFAITH [taken from the Evangelical Alliance]

1. The one true God who lives eternally in three persons -the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
2. The love, grace, and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.
3. The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God-fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.
4. The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image to love, be holy and care for creation, yet corrupted by sin, which incurs divine wrath and judgement.
5. The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ-born of the virgin Mary; truly divine and truly human, yet without sin.
6. The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God.
7. The bodily resurrection of Christ, the first fruits of our resurrection; his ascension to the Father, and his reign and mediation as the only Saviour of the world.
8. The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ.
9. The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.
10. The Church, the body of Christ both local and universal, the priesthood of all believers - given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the gospel, promoting justice and love.
11. The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfil the purposes of God, who will raise all people to judgement, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and new earth.

## OURPASSIONFRAMEWORK

**We believe in the evangelical alliance statement of faith.**

**We believe** in the potential of young people. **#UNPACKINGTALENT**

**We believe** in the voice of young people to shape their world. **#SHAPEYOURGEN.**

**We believe** in improving life chances for young people who are experiencing disadvantage through improving self-worth, self-perception and raising aspiration.

**#LIFEGOALS**

**We believe** that every individual has the 'power to change'. **#ONESTEPATATIME**

**We believe** in challenging youth culture that tells young people 'They are what they own, what they wear & how they behave'. **#DISRUPTERS**

**We believe** in psychologically informed environments. **#VISUALGENERATION.**

**We believe** we can make a difference to poverty & disadvantage through practical support & intentional kindness **#LOVEWINSOUT**.

**We believe** in a positive mindset - focusing on what we CAN DO not what WE CAN'T. **#ICANCULTURE**

**We believe** in asset-based thinking – focusing on 'what we HAVE GOT', not what we haven't got. **#POSITIVEPOSSIBILITIES**

**We believe** in transformation through OPPORTUNITY & PURPOSE.

**#PURPOSEDRIVENLIFE**

**We believe** in & support the physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, moral, cultural, & social development of young people. **#INSIDE OUT**.

**We believe** in individual value, dignity, significance & belonging. **#YOUTHMATTER**

**We believe** in 'collaborative' working which is key to impactful & effective work with young people. **#UNITEDSTRENGTHISSTRONGER**

**We believe** in authentic partnership & generous leadership, giving value to other's opinions, experiences & skills. **#SYNERGY**

**We believe** in our city (Stoke-on-Trent) and promoting positive, ethical, & strong relational multi-agency & inter denominational connections.

**#UNITYINTHECOMMUNITY**

**We believe in longevity, consistency & commitment to the cause.**

## **OURRESPONSIBILITIES**

The main responsibility of **JUNCTION : the SOT Christian Youth network** is to support the **Christian youth sector** to best support & bring the 'good news' of the gospel' to young people in Stoke-on-Trent within the remit of prayer, mission / outreach , discipleship including social justice as an outworking of God's love in action.

The JUNCTION network will primarily work with churches / organisations who provide evidence that they have robust policies, procedures, and quality assurance systems in place to ensure there is integrity to our work. (FYI excluding individual parents /carers as this doesn't apply)

This is evidenced by:

- Safeguarding Policy in line with local safeguarding board procedures
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Volunteer & Paid Organisational Staff & volunteers having L1 Safeguarding training (renewed within 3 years)
- A suitable Disclosure and Barring Service check (renewed within 3 years)

It is our remit to offer support and provide assistance to the wider network/ smaller organisations to ensure they have these processes, policies and procedures in place where they don't already exist.

## OUR MEMBERS #ALLIN

The JUNCTION CHRISTIAN YOUTH NETWORK is made up of 4 strands of involvement:

- **leadership team (invite)**  
The LT Oversees the development of the collective: this includes **spiritual oversight, strategy, forward planning, finance, and growth.**  
  
The LT currently is : Rachel Dixon [ The Beacon] Malcolm Mycock (St Johns, Abbey Hulton) Dawn Reynolds/ [Ruff & Ruby urban Youth Charity] .
- **Members network group:**  
A general membership of the youth collective where you can relationally connect to others through our WhatsApp group, relational monthly meetings & training (without commitments to the purpose driven projects (working groups) of the collective.
- **PODS [place of Development] / aka.** Working groups - oversee primarily the practical implementation of purpose driven specific projects – such as blaze events , LIVE LOUD youth Voice , Missional activities & discipleship programmes / events .
- **Advisory ‘supporters’-** made up of Christian leaders / professionals who will act in an advisory capacity to support the Strategic leadership team if requested – **These are currently: Will Porter ( The Beacon) , Josh Green (24-7 prayer), Jonathan Bellamy (Cross Rhymths] & Greg Cooper (The Message Trust Midlands)**

**Advisory supporters may be asked to attend SLT meetings where deemed necessary.**

Members are invited to contribute to monthly network meetings, PODS .[aka working groups] feedback surveys, & participate in any youth focused activities endorsed / arranged by JUNCTION. On occasion, additional representatives may be invited to attend meetings to provide specialist advice.

Church / organisational Membership of the network is actioned by reading & signing this ‘Terms of reference’ framework document containing a due diligence statement regarding policies & procedures.

Members are invited to contribute to the strategic leadership team meetings via email (for by email to be feedback under '**AOB**').

Members delegate responsibility to the board to make final decisions and represent the network on behalf of all members within the group – we believe in generous leadership & so Trust is encouraged that any feedback given will be fully considered.

## **OUR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **1. Leadership Team**

- Ensure the network aligns with the Evangelical Alliance statement of faith
- Provide a signed Terms of reference document.
- Provide strategic leadership to the group.
- Provide shared outcomes model to connect group activity.
- Manage meetings effectively, including the arrangements for ensuring that agendas and minutes are distributed in good time.
- Ensure appropriate representation at relevant meetings.
- Identify appropriate members and deputies, ensuring that meetings are quorate (a minimum of 3 agency representatives);
- Delegate operational tasks, responsibilities, and projects to achieve efficiency.
- Behave objectively in decision-making, acting with integrity and honesty, being supportive to other members.
- Declare any conflicts of interest.
- Embody and champion the details within Terms of reference including the DNA of JUNCTION.
- Ensure that we operate under current professional safeguarding practice & procedures in line with the SOT safeguarding board.
- Identify funding opportunities for the facets of the network activity.
- **Pray as if it all depends on God & work like it all depends on us!**

### **2. Working Groups**

- Attend meetings required for specific operational projects.
- Secure a suitable alternative representative should attendance not be possible.
- Take active responsibility for **performing tasks** on behalf of the collective.
- Contribute contemporary information, knowledge, and expertise from their own agencies for the benefit of the group.
- Disseminate and champion information from the group back into their own organisation.
- Make the most of their links with other partnerships and networks to advance the aims of the group.
- Behave objectively in decision-making, acting with integrity and honesty, being supportive to other members;
- Declare any conflicts of interest.

- Fulfil the Terms of reference including the DNA of The Collective, mission statement.
- **Pray as if it all depends on God & work like it all depends on us!**

### **3. Wider Relational Network**

- Embody the DNA of JUNCTION Christian youth network and support the mission and values.
- As part of the wider network there is full access to the WhatsApp group, relational monthly meetings, training & 'open' citywide youth activities and opportunities.
- **Pray as if it all depends on God & work like it all depends on us!**

## **OURACCOUNTABILITY**

JUNCTION Christian youth network **are accountable for decisions / finances / operations as a 'body' to each other as a team** in upholding the values and integrity of the partnership.

Each individual organisation / church / group is also **accountable individually to their own leadership teams / trustees / board / denomination(s)**.

### **Network Meetings**

Meetings will take place on a regular basis. An agenda will be distributed before each meeting. Actions of the meeting will be distributed following each meeting and identify key decisions and responsibilities for actions.

Supplementary networking meetings will take place that incorporate members if necessary and will rotate across any organisation wishing to host a meeting.

## **OURMATERIALSANDINTELLECTUALPROPERTY**

All materials and property included in this agreement shall remain the intellectual property of the respective party producing such items.

Unless written notice is provided no intellectual property shall exchange ownership during the term of this agreement. Sharing of intellectual property must comply with data protection and GDPR.

## **OURCONFIDENTIALITY**

All members acknowledge that during the term of this agreement they may become aware of information that is considered confidential or private in nature.

By acknowledging the above members also agree to keep all information obtained during the term of this agreement private as deemed so.

**This should be reinforced at the beginning of every network meeting.** Minutes will be taken at each meeting using a standardised format. These minutes should record all decisions, actions, and deadlines that actions are to be completed by.

## **OURFLEXIBILITY**

Flexibility underpins the JUNCTION model, which allows members to adapt easily to necessary changes and allow them to address issues in the best interest of young people and local partners. Any changes to must be agreed by all parties and minuted at a strategic leadership meeting.

### **Dispute resolution and risk allocation;**

Members enter into this collaboration with a view of taking collective responsibility for the actions of the JUNCTION Christian youth network. As such, liability lies with the group.

Any resolution of disagreements should be dealt with swiftly and amicably through a relational / biblical model . In the case that a JUNCTION network member is seen to act in contradiction to the purpose or values, the Leadership Team will be called upon to investigate.

If a member's actions are deemed to intentionally contravene the ethics, values, purpose or values of the network, then that partner may be required to forfeit their network membership.

## **AUTHORISATION**

This **TOR** is not a legal undertaking. The signatories will abide by the terms to reach the objective stated in the JUNCTION Christian youth network strategic plan, by **striving to do their best.**

## **TERMOFAGREEMENT**

The TOR and JUNCTION policies & procedures will be reviewed on a rolling year on year agreement.

## **TERMINATIONORAMENDMENTS**

Any member can cancel their involvement and engagement with this TOR by serving the other partners with 1 months' notice of termination of the agreement.



This TOR commenced as of JULY 2022

AMENDED BY	DATE
D Reynolds SLT	9/11/22