**** Youth Engagement Core Group**

**DRAFT Terms of Reference**

**March 2012**

**Purpose**

The Youth Engagement Core Group is a community of resourceful, self-reflective and adaptable individuals creating meaningful relationships by meeting youth where they are, by including everyone, and by sharing power through collaborative processes to transform systems. We believe that youth are of value, their voice counts, and that we are agents of change that seek to hear and respond to the voice of youth more effectively within our organizations. Although meaningful youth engagement will look different in each organization, our Core Group can act as a catalyst for this change within our organizations, within the Coalition and in the broader community.

**Functions**

* To develop a work plan for youth engagement that aligns with the Coalition’s strategic goal to “ensure the participation of youth in the planning process”
* To work towards the Coalition’s youth engagement outcomes to ensure “members are more knowledgeable about youth perspectives, will recognize their own organization’s readiness to engage youth, and learn skills and practices to hear the youth voice and develop programs that reflect youth friendly approaches that are more effective, creative and responsive”
* To leverage youth engagement assets within our own organizations and elsewhere in the Coalition to create greater awareness of the needs of young people
* To identify, elevate and share best practices of youth engagement through the Coalition, in the community and from other communities

**Members** This Core Group was initially made up of individual service providers who volunteered to form a Core Group at the Centre of Excellence workshop January 2012 but the group may invite other service providers to join. In addition, young people will be invited to join the group once a meaningful role has been discussed by members.

**Leadership** The group will choose 2 co chairs to set agendas, chair meetings, and provide energy and inspiration. Coalition consultants will help the group form, provide administrative support and coordinate connections to the rest of the Coalition as needed.

**Conduct of Meetings** Decisions will be arrived at by consensus. Agendas will be set by co chairs in consultation with Core Group members and Coalition consultants and will reflect the priorities in the Core Group’s work plan.

**Meeting Frequency**  The Core Group will meet initially once a month.

**Relationships** This group reports periodically to the Coalition Planning Table but will also have access to other Coalition tables, including Council.

**Review** These Terms of Reference will be approved by the Planning Table and reviewed every two years.