

# Stoke Volunteer Managers Network

August 2023

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**Welcome to the August edition of the Stoke Volunteer Managers Network Newsletter.**

The Volunteer Managers Network is a space for people working with volunteers in and around Stoke-on-Trent an opportunity to share ideas, network and provide mutual support.

This newsletter enables us to reach those who haven't been able to attend our recent meetings, and to share any relevant information. Feel free to share amongst your networks with those you think may be interested.

If you're not already part of the network and you'd like to join, please email [volunteering@vast.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@vast.org.uk)

## August Meeting Topic – Inclusive Volunteering

**A big thank you to those that attended our August meeting, and to Glow for kindly hosting. We are enjoying being in new environments for these meetings, and would love to visit other organisations for future meetings. If your organisation would like to host any of our 2024 meetings, please email [volunteering@vast.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@vast.org.uk)**

During the meeting we heard from Gloria, who is VAST's Inclusive Volunteering Project Officer.

Using six weeks worth of 'Know Your Neighbourhood' funding, VAST carried out consultation and engagement work to further identify barriers to volunteering for the people of Stoke-on-Trent to inform our future work around supported volunteering opportunities for the City and to find out what is needed to support people who are not confident to or are otherwise excluded from volunteering currently.

We can define inclusive volunteering as volunteering opportunities that are available to all people regardless of age, culture, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, social status or disability.

We want to help dispel the myths that surround inclusive volunteering and support individuals into volunteering and provide an enriching experience for all.

### **VAST's Inclusive Volunteering Project:**

The project is really starting to build momentum as Gloria settles into her role and has established some great working relationships.

VAST will be working with volunteers and organisations to ensure this project is a success.

### **Support to Volunteers:**

- We are able to offer volunteers the support they need to go from an enquiry to placed. This support is personalised to suit each volunteer such as support with application forms, support for interviews and bespoke travel training as required.
- We are currently building up a bank of 'Volunteer Buddies' to widen this level of support.
- We are also developing a training package for volunteers to help give them an introduction to volunteering, covering important topics like GDPR, safeguarding and appropriate behaviour.

### **Support to Organisations:**

- We will provide information, advice and guidance to organisations on how to be more inclusive. This includes providing specific advice on individuals as required.
- We are putting together an 'Overview for Inclusive Volunteering' for organisations.
- We will be putting on training for organisations on relevant topics.

**We will continue to discuss inclusive volunteering as an item on the agenda at future meetings.**





### Facebook Group

**Have you joined our Facebook group?** Request to join [here](#) and help to grow the group by posting, commenting, and sharing volunteer opportunities. You can also get news and updates via **VAST Volunteering** on Facebook.

### Friendly Reminder

If you have volunteer roles listed on the VAST Volunteer Noticeboard, please check they are up-to-date and contact [volunteering@vast.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@vast.org.uk) if anything needs changing.

We are always more than happy to offer free advice on role descriptions to make them more attractive to potential volunteers.



### Trustees

VAST are looking to promote trustee roles at different events during the Autumn. We are looking to capture stories, either written or video, about being a trustee. We are looking to hear from a range of different trustees. VAST would be more than happy to capture the case study on your behalf.

If you'd like to advertise a trustee role or promote some of your amazing trustee stories, please email [volunteering@vast.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@vast.org.uk)

### Volunteers Forum

The VAST Volunteer Forum is a peer support space to give volunteers in and around Stoke-on-Trent an opportunity to provide valuable insight, share ideas and improve volunteering in the local area. VAST is dedicated to supporting volunteering in our city and facilitates this forum to ensure that volunteering is safe and inclusive for all.

The first forum will be hosted on 25th October at The Dudson Centre from 10am - 11:30am. The forum is open to all volunteers, but places must be prebooked.

Please share this with your volunteers. You can find out more about the event and book [here](#).



**We would love to hear more good news stories involving the power of volunteering. If you have any you'd like to share, please send them to [volunteering@vast.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@vast.org.uk)**

## Stoke-on-Trent Community Share Network



### Inclusivity and Disability Awareness

#### Community Share Network - 22nd November

This session is focused on inclusivity and disability awareness – join VAST and a panel of experts to learn more about building inclusivity and accessibility into every aspect of your organisation, from beneficiaries and members through to staff and volunteers.

The meeting is being held at The Dudson Centre from 1pm - 4pm.

You can book your space to attend this free event [here](#).

#### Training

VAST has a fantastic range of training for the remainder of 2023.

- 14th Sept - Introduction to Volunteer Management
- 21st Sept - Funding and Bid Writing
- 5th Oct - Introduction to Budgeting, Forecasting and Financial Reporting
- 9th Nov - A Beginners Guide to Fundraising
- 13th Dec - Supporting and Managing Volunteers
- 14th Dec - Finance for your Funding Applications

You will need to prebook spaces on the training via Eventbrite. You can find out more about each training [here](#).



#### Future Meetings

- Monday 20th November 1pm - 3pm.

You should have received a calendar invite for these events, if you haven't please get in touch to be invited.

If you have any suggestions for the agenda, please email [volunteering@vast.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@vast.org.uk)

The dates for 2024 will be sent out in early January.