

Stoke Volunteer Managers Network

November 2023

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Welcome to the November 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

November Meeting Topic – Resilience Work

A big thank you to those that attended our November meeting, and to ArtUK 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

During the meeting we heard from Michelle and Katie, who are from Support Staffordshire. Support Staffordshire, VAST and the Civil Contingencies Unit have partnered together to strengthen the VCSE voice in resilience work.

England is split into Local Resilience Forums. The Staffordshire Resilience Forum pulls partners together in response to emergencies across Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire.

The National Resilience Standards for Local Resilience Forums include a Community Resilience Development Standard which promotes the active involvement of the VCSE Sector within resilience works. Community resilience is enabled when the public are empowered to harness local resources and expertise to help themselves and their communities to:

- prepare, respond and recover from disruptive challenges,
- plan and adapt to long term social and environmental changes to ensure their future prosperity and resilience

Community resilience is all about working with civil society to create social value and achieve a more resilient UK.

Project Aims:

To strength the role of the VCSE sector in civil contingencies in order to deliver a sustainable and responsive local structure.

- Consult and engage with key stakeholders
- Review national landscape, strategy and operating models for national, regional and local VCSE sector
- Develop a local VCSE emergency response network
- Review local VCSE capacity and capability
- Arrangements for management of spontaneous volunteers

Future Steps:

- Scoping to identify what organisations can offer and how they can help build community resilience
- Gathering insight on capacity and capabilities in the rest of the VCSE sector (i.e. non emergency)
- Continue building on trusted relationships
- What support do organisations or communities need from Support Staffordshire, VAST or partners in terms of building resilience?

If you'd like more information, please email michelle.cliff@supportstaffordshire.org.uk





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 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.



Staffordshire University - Digital Placements

Could your organisation benefit from help with digital marketing? Staffordshire University are offering the opportunity for a student placement to assist you with your digital marketing needs. This placement is credited as part of their course MSc in Digital Marketing Management. As an organisation, you get the assistance you need with your digital marketing efforts from a talented and motivated individual. And as a student, they get the valuable experience of working with real-world clients and applying their digital marketing knowledge in a practical setting. Please email volunteering@vast.org.uk to find out more.

Ripple Effect Session

We are hosting an interactive workshop on behalf of the Vision for Volunteering Team called 'Ripple-Effect Mapping'.

If you are an organisation or group that has already started making changes towards bringing the Vision for Volunteering to life locally, we'd like to invite you to join our Ripple Effect Mapping sessions. These are interactive, hands-on sessions where we get together and try to map the changes you've made and the things that have happened as a result.

We'd love to have the Stoke-on-Trent event fully booked! 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

TOTALLY STOKED

Award Categories:

- Best CSR Project
- Best Collaborative Project
- Breakthrough Award: Organisation
- Breakthrough Award: Project
- Steps to Sustainability Award
- InVOLve Award
- Community Champion Award
- Biggest Giver
- Biggest Impact

Totally Stoked Awards

VAST is thrilled to announce that nominations are now open for the Totally Stoked Awards, celebrating the hard work and success of Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire's voluntary and community sector.

We are looking for nominations across nine award categories. You can submit multiple nominations for each category (including for your own organisation).

Remember that nominations will be evaluated by a panel who may not be aware of the person, project, or organisation you are nominating, so please make sure your nominations are clear, detailed, and as meaningful as possible. We want to know why you think they should win! You can find out more [here](#).

Training and Events

Supporting and Managing Volunteers, 13th December

This course is perfect for anyone who coordinates and/or supports volunteers in any capacity. This is a more in-depth version of our Introduction to Volunteer Management training. The training will take place on Zoom, and will take around 3 hours.

For more information, and booking, please click [here](#).

VAST has a fantastic range of training planned for 2024 which you can view [here](#).



Future Meetings

The dates for 2024 will be sent out in early January. You will receive a 'save the date' email and then two weeks before receive a full invite confirming the venue.

At the meeting we discussed the following themes for 2024:

- Vision for Volunteering
- Celebrating volunteers
- Recruitment
- Supporting volunteers further e.g. CV writing, employability skills

If you have any suggestions for the agenda, please email volunteering@vast.org.uk