

Stoke Volunteer Managers Network

May 2024

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**Welcome to the May 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**

Recruiting Volunteers & Volunteers Week

A big thank you to those that attended our May meeting, and a big thank you to Middleport Matters for hosting the meeting. Our next meeting is hosted via Zoom.

During the meeting we focused on recruiting volunteers. We focused on two main questions:

What do we do well?

- Multiple ways for people to apply ie. online and in person
- Attending events like Freshers Fairs
- Having a variety of different roles and flexible roles
- Using social media
- Word of mouth through previous clients
- Targeted recruitment for specific skills
- Using local volunteer centres
- Sharing positive stories to encourage others
- Swift actioning for interested parties

What could be done better?

- Clear objectives, what do we want from our volunteers?
- Clearer role descriptions to attract volunteers.
- Rethink some roles on how they can be done better.
- More networking to work with others.
- Simpler process for volunteers to start.

For further advice and ideas, we recommend visiting NCVO and their guide on recruiting volunteers. You can find it [here](#). You could also speak to our of VAST's Projects Team to get advice on your volunteer strategy. Please email volunteering@vast.org.uk for more information.

Volunteers Week

[Volunteers' Week](#) is just around the corner, with this year being particularly special as we celebrate the 40th anniversary. Throughout the week, volunteers will be thanked across the UK! You can dress your events with branded bunting, gift your volunteers certificates and cards, and shout about your plans on social with all the [free resources available to download](#).

During our meeting, we discussed what local organisations were doing to celebrate. Answers included:

- Social Media themed posts around 'thanking volunteers'.
- A meal out for volunteers.
- Celebrating achievements through different platforms ie. newsletters, social media.
- Handing out certificates with personal messages on.
- Small gift bags of appreciation.
- Sharing volunteer case studies.
- Joining up with another organisation to celebrate volunteers.
- Wellbeing afternoon.





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.



EE Gives Back!



EE encourage their staff to give back to their community through volunteering. VAST helped match EE to a local organisation through our CSR Brokerage Service. As a result, EE spent the day with Middleport Matters to transform an area off Newport Lane.

You can read more about their experience [here](#).

Volunteers Forum

We are hosting our next Volunteers Forum on the 5th June from 10am till 12pm at Tesco Hanley Community Room. The forum is open to all volunteers, a staff member can attend with volunteers if this makes them feel more comfortable, but the forum is aimed at the volunteers themselves.

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

Please note spaces are limited for this event.



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

VAST Volunteering
Quality Standards



VAST Volunteering Quality Standards

Our free scheme provides a framework which organisations can work towards accreditation based on their volunteering policies and procedures, and the way they work with new and existing volunteers.

Our vision for the quality standards scheme is to instil consistent volunteer-related best practice across the whole of the local voluntary sector through structured and proactive support.

You can find the information [here](#).

Training and Events

Supporting and Managing Volunteers

Our in-depth Volunteer Management training is perfect for those looking to expand on their knowledge of volunteer management beyond our Introduction to Volunteer Management training.

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

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


 A yellow poster pinned to a dark orange background with a red pushpin at the top. The poster features the text 'Supporting & Managing Volunteers' and the VAST logo. Below the poster, there are silhouettes of many hands raised in various colors (yellow, orange, red, brown).

Supporting &
Managing
Volunteers

vast
Volunteering

Future Meetings

Our meetings rotate between face to face or virtual, with the confirmed details and agenda coming out two weeks before each meeting.

- 29th August, 10am – 12pm, via Zoom
- 18th November, 1pm – 3pm, VENUE NEEDED!

If you have any suggestions for the agenda, or can offer a venue, please email volunteering@vast.org.uk