



Volunteer Managers Network

August 2026

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Welcome to the latest edition of the Stoke-on-Trent 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

Volunteer Management Best Practice

When working with volunteers, it is important to understand the laws, regulations, and best practice recommendations around volunteer management.

In August’s Volunteer Managers Network session, VAST’s volunteering team covered:



- The difference between volunteering, apprenticeships, internships, work experience, micro-volunteering, and paid employment
- Volunteering and benefits
- Working with young volunteers
- Working with volunteers with additional needs
- Volunteering for asylum seekers and refugees
- DBS checks and requirements – **including recent changes to DBS Checks**
- Required policies and insurance
- Appropriate language around volunteering – e.g. avoiding ‘contracts’
- Volunteering expenses
- VAST’s volunteer brokerage service

[Click here to see the session slides](#)

Session Resources:

Guide: Working with Young Volunteers	Guide: Inclusive Volunteering
NCVO Guidance: Volunteering and Benefits	VA Consultancy: DBS Changes Guidance
Gov.uk: Regulated Activities (DBS Guidance)	Gov.uk: DBS Check Application Process
Sheffield Volunteer Centre: Involving Refugees and Asylum Seeker Volunteers	VAST: Register your Volunteer Opportunity
Carecheck: DBS Checks and Guidance	Volunteero: DBS Changes Webinar
RNLI Case Study: Volunteering and the Law	VAST KYN3 Report: Volunteering for asylum seekers and refugees

[See more resources and information on VAST’s Volunteer Vault](#)

Vision for Volunteering

Our Vision for Volunteering

“Our Vision for Volunteering is to create a community where everyone comes together to make a positive impact. We believe that together we can create meaningful connections, foster empathy, and create a real sense of unity.



Putting the ‘unity’ in community, our mission is to inspire others to join in and help make the world a better place for all.”

What is the 'Vision for Volunteering'?

This Vision for Volunteering is a pledge, one where organisations like yours can show your commitment to developing and nurturing a community where volunteering thrives, and where every individual feels empowered to make a difference.

It's a pledge to uphold and promote the values and principles that underpin our shared vision for a stronger, more connected community across Stoke-on-Trent.

What are the themes?

Our Vision for Volunteering statement identifies four key themes which fit the ethos of volunteering in Stoke-on-Trent:

Investing in volunteers	Community Connections	Experimentation and Innovation	Encouraging Individuality
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Who's the Vision for?

YOU! It's for you. It's for your organisation and your Volunteer Manager(s) or coordinators(s). It's for your volunteers, to be able to make their volunteering journey a positive, smooth, rewarding, and fulfilling one.

The Vision for Volunteering is for any volunteer involving organisation – no matter how big or small, old or new! We would love to have a wide range of organisations involved in the Vision for Volunteering.

[Click here to read the Vision for Volunteering](#)

[Click here to find out more, and sign up to get involved!](#)

Other business...

Upcoming training and networking events

Network
VAST New Members Mixer



Webinar
Beginner's Guide to Fundraising



Training
Health Inequalities For Community Health Champions



Training
Communications and Social Media



Training
Introduction to Canva



[Click here to see the VAST calendar](#)

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.



[Learn more about the Quality Standards](#)

Future Meetings

Our meetings rotate between face to face or virtual, with the confirmed details and agenda coming out two weeks before each meeting. You will now need to book your space at the meetings on our website. You can book future sessions below:

3rd November 2026 (venue tbc)

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

TOTALLY STOKED AWARDS 2027

Nominations now open!

The time has come for you to submit nominations for the best and brightest voluntary organisations and community groups across Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire.

The Totally Stoked Awards is a celebration of the local Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector in Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire. Together with local partners and sponsors, and with your nominations, we'll be presenting awards to some of the area's most dedicated charities, voluntary organisations, community groups, social enterprises, teams, and individuals—across eight categories—in recognition of their dedication to people in our local communities.

The awards ceremony will take place in **January 2027** – keep an eye on the VAST calendar for more information!



**Collaboration
Award**



**Breakthrough
Award**



**Alliance
Award**



**InVOLve
Award**



**Changemaker
Award**



**Grounded in
Community
Award**



**Community
Hero Award**



**Totally Stoked
Recognition
Award**

[Click here to find out more about the Totally Stoked Awards](#)

[Click here to make a nomination!](#)