

**Notes of the Stafford Strategic VCSE Forum
Held on 28 April 2016 at 2.00 pm**

Present:		Apologies:	
Garry Jones (Chair)	Support Staffordshire	Julie Walker	SCC - Stafford Targeted Services
Nic Edmonds (NE)	Support Staffordshire	Chris Welch	Community Council
Lesley Whatmough(LW)	Support Staffordshire	Andy Halden	Community Council
Ken Down (KD)	Signposts	Karen Davies	Stafford Borough Council
Helen Wood (HW)	SFARS	Joanne Speed	The Dove Service
Ruth Parsons (RP)	Action on Hearing Loss	Mac Cock	Carers Association South Staffs
Alison Poole (AP)	SARH	Daphne Sharp	MASE Group
Matthew Whittaker (MW)	NAYC - Whitemoor Lakes Activity Centre	Gill Wyatt	Action on Hearing Loss
Cathy Jones (CJ)	ASIST Advocacy Services	Keri Lawrence	SSNMH
Richard Upton (RU)	Stafford Borough Council	Bob Attwood	SSNMH
Phil Pusey (PP)	SCVYS	Tracey Owens	DWP Partnership
Lisa Jenkinson (LJ)	Safer Communities CIC	Graham Wright	Community Transport
Michelle Bennett (MB)	Richmond Fellowship	Kate Harrold	Stafford Borough Council
Karen Wardell (KW)	Stone Community Hub	Ruth Carroll	DWP Employment Advisor
Alex Cairns-Lawrence (ACL)	Home Start Stafford & District	Barbara Wain	Changes & Health and Wellbeing
Richard Soulsby (RS)	Katharine Hose Hospice	Dickie James	Staffordshire Womens Aid
Carmel Warren (CW)	SFARS		
Emily Skeet (ES)	Staffordshire County Council - Staffs Market Place		

1. Welcome, introduction and Apologies

2. Minutes of the last meeting

(AP) commented she had not received the attachments with the minutes. (NE) resent these during the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

- a) **Stafford Strategic partnership boards representation** – (JN) still to ascertain current VCSE representation on the three strategic boards and obtain Terms of Reference for each – Ongoing
- b) **Locality commissioning:** (GJ) responded to Tony Goodwin on behalf of the sector expressing their concerns about future commissioning and the need to have an open dialogue with the sector. Tony has offered to meet with GJ moving forward as a when required. A copy of the email will be distributed with the minutes.

4. Updates from Representatives

- a) **Home Start Stafford (ACL)** – Funding has eventually been forthcoming from the Building Resilient Families team but with tighter criteria on who they can work with attached i.e. only families referred by the BRFC team. The issue is that those families falling outside of this criteria will not be able to access support from Home Start.

- b) SARH (AP)** – The Branching Out and Feel Good Food projects have now ceased. The Growing Health project is continuing in Barlaston, Stone and Blythe Bridge. Due to the success of the Branching Out project in working with BRFC families, SARH are going to adopt this model and roll out to their own customers and communities.
- c) Stafford Borough Council (RU)** – The Stafford HWB locality commissioning group, at their next meeting on the 12th May 2016 will be assessing the community development approach used by the County Council with a view to gaining further clarity on a new system/approach moving forward.
- d) SFARS (CW)** – As the Prevent manager CW would like to know how SFARS can link in with VCSE forum members in Stafford Borough more effectively. SFARS have recently secured their Investing in Volunteers (IiV) quality accreditation. Much of their work involves finding and supporting vulnerable people in their homes and working with other agencies such as Age UK to encourage safety and support in the home. Home Fire Risk Checks are now being replaced by Safe and Well visits which will allow for a wider range of issues to be identified and more effective signposting / referral to agencies that are best placed to help individuals.

GJ – Stafford Borough Council have recently adopted the Lets Work Together model being implemented in other districts. Some training sessions have been programmed in during the summer. For more information go to: <http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/lets-work-together-training-modules>

(NE) to speak to Stafford Borough Council regarding where the programme is currently at in its implementation and engagement with the sector.

- e) Richmond Fellowship (MB)** – Have recently re-tendered for the community based mental health services tender being commissioned by Staffordshire County Council (SCC). The tender submitted covers delivery in all areas of Staffordshire, whereas the current RF Staffordshire Lifelinks provision only covers Stafford, Cannock and South Staffordshire. An update / decision from SCC is expected on 17/06/16.

RF have recently co-produced with service users, a self-injury support group in Stafford. Also had a request to establish a Hearing Voices Group for people suffering from conditions such as schizophrenia.

Hoping to open a community based Café as part of the SFARS Life Skills Centre development.

Have also set up a human library to share the experiences of individuals with mental health issues.

For more information on any of the projects or to enquire about mental health training contact Michelle on (01785) 227020 or email: michelle.bennett@richmondfellowship.org.uk

GJ suggested having a presentation from Michelle and Keri Lawrence (SSNMH) at the next meeting of the forum to update members on the current mental health service offer and landscape in Staffordshire.

- f) SFARS (HW)** – The development of the Lifeskills Centre is progressing with architect's designs for the building almost complete and an anticipated submission to planning by the end of May/June. Hoping to start the build in September 2016 with a launch of the facility in September 2017. A CIO is currently being established to manage the centre and a trustee evening is planned in June to talk to individuals who might be interested in becoming trustees for the CIO.

To find out more about the project contact Helen on (01785) 898842 or email: helen.wood@staffordshirefire.gov.uk

- g) NAYC (MW)** - Finding increasingly that academies are coming to them with issues on charging children for activities and to find out if any other members have come across similar issues. At present NAYC are researching this to determine a way forward and manage the implications of this.
- h) Signpost Centre (KD)** – The centre got 4 and a half years of Lottery funding left to support local people and are looking to diversify and have applied to Lloyds Community Foundation for funding to develop a fundraising strategy. New groups, courses and projects are being held to support socially isolated people, if forum members are aware of anyone who might be interested in joining in, contact Ken on (01785) 223860.
- i) Safer Communities CIC (LJ)** – The CIC has a small amount of funding available to support local community projects that meet SFARS objectives around promoting community safety, prevention etc. There is an application process to go through and if anyone is interested contact Lisa on (01785) 898563.
- j) SCVYS (PP)** – Currently have 144 youth group members. Also awaiting the outcome of a jointly led bid with Support Staffordshire and South Staffs CVA to provide VCSE infrastructure support across the county. There is a Youth Debate (ages 11-25) focussed on mental health scheduled for the 4th July 2016 7-9pm at County Buildings. If members wish to attend to listen, they should contact Phil on (01785) 240378.
- k) Action on Hearing Loss (RP)** – Awaiting the decision on who has won the contract to provide NHS Hearing Aids in the future. A batch of Zenipower (dated 08-18 and 09-18) hearing aid batteries have been recalled as they have exploded. In May there will be a deaf day run by Deafvibe is being held at Britannia Stadium, Stoke-on-Trent. **(RP)** happy to take members leaflets along.
- l) Stone Community Hub (KW)** – The Hub is open four days a week and provides a drop in advice centre, Youth Club, Job Club and a group for socially isolated people. If organisations know anyone who might like to be referred to the hub contact Karen on (01785) 812417. Key area of concern for the hub is funding, as currently reliant on membership, donations and fundraising. **(PP)** offered to assist with a Grantfinder search.
- m) ASIST (CJ)** – Have been successful in winning the Self Advocacy Tender in Staffordshire. Currently undertaking a mapping exercise of various groups to work in partnership with to ultimately offer a wider spread of support across the County to individuals from age 14 upwards who have learning disabilities or ASD conditions. We have a central helpline on 0300 800 1000 and to find out more go to: www.asist.co.uk
- n) Katharine House Hospice (RS)** – Review of internal services currently being carried out and Retail is still the major source of funding. The merger of UHNS and County Hospital has caused problems as staff have been reassigned and understanding of discharge from Hospital to Hospices has been lost in part due to the merger. There has been a meeting with UHNM to try and address these problems. Were informed by Clinical Commissioning Groups in March that they would reduce funding by 10% with only a month's notice. Discussions to take place to determine how this can be achieved without detriment to Patient care.
- 5) Staffordshire Market Place (ES)** - Presentation to be sent out with the minutes. If organisations have any feedback on the new website or would like a batch of the new Staffordshire Care Services Directory 2016, please contact Emily Skeet on (01785) 895124 or email: emily.skeet@staffordshire.gov.uk

6) Stafford Partnership Meetings Update

- a) **Stafford Strategic Partnership** - was cancelled, next meeting to be held 10th May 2016
- b) **Safer Communities Partnership** – met on 30th March 2016. Update to be sent out with the minutes.
- c) **Health and Wellbeing Group** - met 3rd March 2016. Update to be sent out with the minutes
- d) **Families Strategic Partnership (PP)** – Has only met a couple of times. There is a new high level strategy being written, which will come out for consultation in a month or so. There have been 3 consultation workshops scheduled (one of which has taken place), the further two workshops are planned for the 18/5/16 and 15/6/16. PP urged relevant VCSE organisations to attend to provide a greater representation.

7. Any other business

(AP) asked if Support Staffordshire VCSE Consultation results have been published yet. (GJ) advised that an update on these will be featured in the E-bulletin.

8. Dates of future meetings

- Wednesday 27th July 2016 @ 2pm - Stone Community Hub
- Thursday 20th October 2016 @ 2pm - Rising Brook Baptist Church