

**Notes of the Stafford Strategic VCSE Forum
Held on 28 January 2015 at 2.00 pm**

Present:		Apologies:	
Garry Jones (Chair)	Support Staffordshire	Nicola Edmonds	Support Staffordshire
Jill Norman (JN)	Support Staffordshire	Carol Carney	Upper Moreton Rural Activities
Lesley Whatmough(LW)	Support Staffordshire		Richmond Fellowship
Viki Ashcroft (VA)	SBC	Michelle Bennett	
Tracey Redpath (TR)	SBC	Justine Eardley-Dunn	SAVANA
Bob Attwood (BA)	SSNMH	Gill Wyatt	Action on Hearing Loss
Ken Down (KD)	Signposts	Barbara Wain	Changes Health and Wellbeing
Helen Wood (HW)	Safer Communities CIC		DWP Partnership
Lucy Gratton (LG)	SCC	Tracey Owens	DWP-Building Resilient Families
Ruth Parsons (RP)	Action on Hearing Loss	Ruth Carroll	SCVYS
Graham Wright (GW)	Community Link		Safer Communities CIC
Alison Poole (AP)	SARH	Phil Pusey	SARH
Andy Halden (AH)	Community Council of Staffordshire	Lisa Jenkinson	Community Council of Staffordshire
Dan Ganley (DG)	Changes Young People	Kathy Jones	SCC
Matthew Whittaker(MW)	NAYC/ACUK	Chris Welch	
Sarah Garner (SG)	SCC	Wayne Coombe	
Daphne Sharp (DS)	The MASE Group		
Kati Walker (KW)	SSNMH		
Keri Lawrence (KL)	SSNMH		
Cathy Jones (CJ)	Assist Advocacy		
Mike Howell (MH)	Mid Staffs MENCAP		
Richard Upton (RU)	SBC		
Kate Harrold (KH)	SBC		
Mike Calverley (MC)	SCC		
Steve Lapworth (SL)	Interact Arts CIC		
Karen Wardell (KW)	Stone Community Hub		
Sue Nicholls (SN)	SWSCAB		

1. Welcome, introduction and Apologies

2. Minutes of the last meeting – (SG) clarified that the Archive and Heritage Service would submit a Heritage Lottery Fund bid to support a new Stafford History Centre linking the current Stafford Record Office and William Salt Library as well as access points in Lichfield and Burton and an activity programme.

3. Matters Arising

- a) **Stafford Safer Communities Partnership** – Action: (JN) to ascertain current VCSE representation, on the three strategic boards and obtain terms of reference for each – Ongoing.
- b) (JN) Distributed copies of the feedback received from attendees at the last meeting and advised it was helpful to get views from members which will be used to inform Support Staffordshire's future delivery plans.

- c) (GJ) Support Staffordshire are working closely with an independent market research agency to review our services to community groups, charities and social enterprise organisations. A consultation event is scheduled for Wednesday 24th February at the Wolseley Centre, Wolseley Bridge. All members were invited to attend.
- d) **Children's System Pilot** – Following the stakeholder event in October 2015, a meeting was held in December 2015 to co-ordinate pilot work in Stafford (and South Staffs) around the introduction of Multi-Agency Centres in schools and as part of a local network of support for children and families within their communities. There would be a further meeting in February 16 to develop the plans, to which representatives of community and voluntary sector support organisations had been invited. A plan-on-a-page for the pilot would be developed and shared - there would be the opportunity for involvement of community and voluntary groups. The schools initially involved were: Stafford Manor High, Doxey Primary, Blessed William Howard, the Hollies and the Manor Hill/Walton Priory Federation in Stone.

4. Prevent - Extremism and Radicalisation Presentation (VA)

A copy of the presentation was given to attendees. (TR) emphasised that if people had any concerns to consider it in context and discuss it with someone before referring. This was particularly in response to the comment by (KL) in relation to considering vulnerable individuals e.g. people with mental illness.

5. Health and Social Care Transformation Presentation (MC)

A copy of the presentation will be distributed with minutes.

Particular questions raised included:

- a) (SN) Does this transformation sit under the remit of the Health & Wellbeing Board?

Answer (MC/GJ): It's still not clear as to the involvement of the HWB Board in scrutinising the Transformation programme

- b) (BA) How optimistic are you that the congress will achieve its aims?

Answer (MC): Is optimistic that Rita's Simmons accountability role will help drive this forward in a correct and coherent way given her background and wide understanding of the public health arena.

6. Healthy Lifestyle Staffordshire presentation (LG)

A copy of the presentation will be distributed with the minutes

(JN) Is there a contact for Staffordshire Market Place? Is it possible to have a representative to attend the next Forum meeting? (LG) to ask a representative to attend the next meeting.

7. Life Skills Centre Project

(HW) Stafford Fire Station is being remodelled to accommodate the new Life Skills Centre. Initial plans have been drawn up and anyone wishing to see the plans or to have a chat about the development can give Helen a call. They are keen to get as much feedback as possible to ensure the project is for purpose and meets the needs of local groups and their users. (HW) to find out if there is going to be an open public session whereby plans and ideas can be viewed.

8. Stafford partnership meetings update

a) Stafford Borough Strategic Partnership (JN) - held 21/01/16.

An update was provided on the new SFARS Lifeskills Centre and the potential legal structure of the new organisation that will be running it.

Stone Leisure Partnership involved in securing a new provider to take on leisure centres in Stone which is currently out for tender. Stafford Borough Council are also looking for a new partner to take on the running of its wider leisure and tourist facilities in the Borough.

There is as yet no clear news on what the Beaconside Staffordshire University site is to be used for under its new Chinese ownership. However, it is expected that this will be for continued educational use. Staffs University will be leaving the site at the end of the academic year. The medical facility at Blackheath Lane will continue under Staffordshire University.

The new Waterfront car park is to open possibly early-mid February and will have long and short stay spaces. The new shops are scheduled to open late summer/early autumn.

b) Safer Communities Partnership (JN) – held 21/01/16

There has been a strategic assessment of the Stafford Community Safety Strategy undertaken by Staffordshire County Council. Tackling drugs and alcohol use remains a high priority alongside Child Sexual Exploitation and cyber-crime.

The OPCC's SPACE initiative that provides summer activities for young people may not go ahead this year. This will be decided once the outcome of the PCC elections is known. The election will take place on the 5th May 2016.

(SN) Citizens Advice have taken over the Victims Gateway Service that supports victims of crime across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. This has been funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner and started in September 2015.

Presently taking up to 160 referrals a day from the Police but are looking to encourage self-referrals into the service. For further information on the service go to: <http://www.snsCab.org.uk/about-us/svg/> or telephone the helpline number on 03300 881339.

c) Stafford & Surrounds Health and Wellbeing Strategy Group

The group meets bi-monthly and is chaired by Jonathan Bletcher, from the Clinical Commissioning Group and has a variety of strategic representatives who sit on this. This group has responsibility for developing local policy whilst providing guidance to local partners on vision and direction for health and wellbeing provision. The group has direct access to the Health & Wellbeing Board.

Commissioning – Following the transformation of health and social care and the financial review, Staffordshire County Council (SCC) have cut 50% of the public health budget that Stafford Borough Council receive for locality commissioning resulting in 12 projects being de-commissioned from 1st April. They are working closely with Staffordshire County Council to support the continuation of the Hub work.

The group couldn't agree a way forward so need to meet again to look at how a sustainable model can be developed for a commissioning programme longer than 12 months. Funding has been committed until December 2017, however after this there will be no further investment from SCC for locality commissioning.

Strategy – The delivery of the strategy is being steered by three sub groups: Start Well (Chair Narinder Reehal), Live Well (Mike Calverley) and Age Well (Ruth Goldstein). These will feed in to the development of an Action Plan that can hopefully deliver the strategy in a sustainable way by maximising aligned budgets and other external funding that might be available e.g. Sport England (Walking, Cycling)

The next meeting of the group will take place on **3rd March 2016**.

Action: (GJ) to draft a response 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.

9. Updates from Forum representatives

Given that the meeting had overrun, only specific requests for feedback on key issues have been recorded below:

- a) (KL) SSNMH - If anyone knows people who are affected by the changes at Quest (mental health day opportunities in Stafford) please get in touch they have an open door policy.
- b) (RP) All 4 CGS in South Staffordshire have decided not to go ahead with the cuts for existing and potential hearing aid customers. We are continuing to campaign in North Staffordshire.
- c) (KD) Signpost Centre has recently secured five year funding from the Reaching Communities programme. If any members are aware of people in the Highfields area who could benefit from our services please refer in to us.
- d) (SG) highlighted the Staffordshire Libraries Volunteering Campaign. The link to information for this for wider promotion is here: [Staffordshire Libraries Volunteering Campaign](#)

10. Dates of future meetings

- Thursday 28th April 2016 @ 2pm – Katherine House Business Centre
- Thursday 21st July 2016 @ 2pm
- Thursday 20th October 2016 @ 2pm