

**Notes of the Stafford Strategic VCSE Forum
Held on Wednesday 8th September 2021 10:00**

Present:		Apologies:	
Anne Ross Michelle Cliff Chris Calkin Denise Miller	Support Staffordshire Support Staffordshire Stafford Walking Groups Great Bridgeford Garden Guild	Lesley Bailey Irene Moran	SDBLL Barlaston Car Scheme
Sharon Lowe MPFT Zak Patel Linda Harrington Bob Fletcher Alistair Dudd Lottie Smith Mel Chapman Julie Perry Evelyn Hughes Ann Richards	Mental Health Matters Alzheimer's Org Warmer Homes Stafford Stafford Samaritans Alzheimer's Org Together Active Beacon Church Julie Perry Legal Services Derrington Village Hall Brewood Dementia Support Group Gnosall Car Scheme	Martin Peake Lauren Angus	Beat the Cold Elim Hope Church Foodbank Project VAE CAB South West Talk Change Grow Stone Town Council Stafford Borough Council
Tony Innormorati		Sam Taylor Steve Brookes	Stafford BC Staffordshire & Stone on Trent Dementia Network
Nick Kelly Lucy Cox Leanne Macpherson	Sporting Communities SCVYS Staffordshire Community Foundation Making Space Resolve Staffordshire Children's Centres	Daphne Sharp Kat Horner	MASE Alzheimer's Org - Dementia Friendly Communities
Joseph Birks Dan Gibbons Kate Tomson-Rayner		James Battrick Peter Crockett	SAGE Stafford DAA
Anita Sumner Smith Michael Creek Lisa Hibbert Lucy Gratton	MFPT Mase Stafford BC Victoria Park SCC		

1. Welcome, introduction and Apologies

Anne Ross opened the virtual Forum, welcomed everyone.

Introductions conducted

Anne mentioned that some of the presentations would focus on Dementia, in support of Stafford Borough Council and Stafford Dementia Action Alliance. The group has had some changes due to Covid and as a result of some of the members retiring over the past year. It was agreed to try to reach out to the community to look for some for additional members. The group have always been community led. If anyone from today's forum is interested or know of any persons to contact Anne to enable them to join the next DAA meeting.

2. Presentations

- **Zak Patel & Alistair Dudd – Alzheimer’s UK –**
zakirapatel@alzheimers.org.uk/alistair.dudd@alzheimers.org.uk
Dementia Advisor Service

Updates on Service - Cover Stafford and surrounding areas. Re-contracted in 2018. Service is commissioned by the local CCG across Staffordshire and MPFT. Support either face to face or by telephone. When a referral is made, they undertake an assessment to understand the support required. If people with Dementia are highly functional, they provide information to them and their carer. After the assessment, they generate a Support Plan to see what is required at that time of the assessment. Referrals often by Memory Service, people receive an automatic referral with their consent, which gets responded in a timely manner. Currently 11 advisors covering Staffordshire and Stafford. Allocated to GP Surgeries. Support can be extended to focus on areas of need – to assist with benefits such as Attendance Allowance, Pension Credit, PIP, Council Tax Reduction, if eligible. Support for 3 months, but can be extended. Self- referrals.

Alistair mentioned Places of Welcome being useful support to Alzheimer’s UK. Places of Welcome arrange community groups in various libraries, churches, etc in the area. Are Dementia friendly.

Most services are currently still virtual, hopefully ‘Singing for the Brain’ will be coming back to face to face later in the year, currently meeting online. CRISP sessions – carers information and support session, 4 week session, 1 hour per week - focuses on how people can appropriately care for someone: Use referral form and mention specific service ie CRISP, carer does need to be supporting someone with a dementia diagnosis. Next group of sessions start on 26th October.

Living well with Dementia programme– 8 sessions for people who are living with someone with a diagnosis, Dementia, 1 ½ hours long each session. Signposting sessions which provides information about available support services. Cognitive Stimulation Taster session – keeping brain working well while doing activities. Next sessions start on 14th October.

Can apply by using a referral form and stating the session of interest. Dementia Voice Program gives people who are living with Dementia an opportunity to influence things around them. Dementia Connect National Helpline – 0333 150 3456. Local Office number - 01543 573936.

Copies of any leaflets or literature can be obtained on website and groups can order up to 8 copies per person.

Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Dementia Network for Dementia Friendly communities – For anyone interested in joining a local network in villages etc to create more dementia friendly communities - meeting 14th September, online contact Steve Brookes:
steve.brookes@stoke.gov.uk.

- **MASE (Monthly Alzheimer’s Support Evenings)**

Update on service Contact Mike Creek: mcreek55@googlemail.com
daphne.scharp@ntlworld.com www.themasegroup.com

Service started as evening sessions, one afternoon session was introduced. Have done 5 groups over many years (13). Group in Stafford was stopped as didn’t have enough volunteers. Face to face meetings were stopped due to COVID but still able to use telephone and support group members. Aim of groups - to give a 2 hour session to carers, ex-carers, people with dementia to forget about situations at home and relax and enjoy activities. Sessions are held in Cannock (First Monday of month - 1:00pm-3:00pm, Rugeley – New Venue at Lee Hall Restaurant (Third Friday of the month), Hednesford (Last Thursday of month – 7:00-9:00). During pandemic, took telephone calls and provided meals each Friday for the vulnerable. 2,000 meals were delivered and stopped

at end of June. Face to face meetings resumed beginning of July. Have had to be mindful of numbers, do temperature checks, social distancing – 6 people socially distanced on tables. Numbers are beginning to increase. Used to provide buffets but now do “Waiter Service” with a menu to complete. Second half of meetings have an entertainer. Transport can be provided to attend meetings. Limited to 7 people in a bus. They provide packs of information. Group are self-funding and fundraise.

- **Lottie Smith – Together Active – charlottesmith@togetheractive.org
*Updates on Services and “Active my Way”***

Active Partnership for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent and work with Sport England to distribute funding. They try to stop inactivity in Staffordshire as the current data showed that 27.2% of residents are inactive. Stoke-on-Trent has highest percentage of 32.8%. More common in people with disabilities. Together Active can work in partnership with other groups, provide funding, training and information to support activity organisations. Active My Way which uses Open Data - makes online booking and payments easier on new website, easier to access information and manage. Active my Way website (www.activemyway.org) shows activity opportunities in different areas, advice, videos and a dedicated section to healthcare professionals.

Presentation available: www.supportstaffordshire.org.uk.

- **Leanne Macpherson – Staffordshire Community Foundation –
leanne.macpherson@staffordshire.foundation
*Grant Opportunities***

One of 40 Community Foundations in UK. Been awarding grants since 2008 locally. Last year awarded 2.4million across Staffordshire and Shropshire mainly for emergency grants through COVID. Stafford Borough Council Small Grants – Grants of £100-£1000 to support with groups befriending the community or projects supporting organisations after the pandemic, closes 28 September. Stafford Borough Council Sports Grants – Grants of £100-£1000 for sports grants, coaching funds, or scholarship grants, open for an early 2022 panel. The Rural Development Fund supports rural communities around Staffordshire, grants up to £1000, early January dates to be confirmed. Made By Sport for local sports clubs and organisations, grants of £2021, panels held monthly. Aspire Fund is unrestricted but has preference on support with young people, grants of £2000 - £5000, closes 22nd September. Stafford Together supports community and voluntary groups, grants up to £500, closes on 13th October. To be able to get a grant you have to be able to match the criteria, be a registered charity or CIC, have to be able to benefit the community, and must be able to provide any supporting documents.

Can apply by visiting <https://staffordshire.foundation> and will need to provide a complete application form, governance document, bank account statement, latest set of accounts, quotes for costs and policies including safeguarding and equality. After the grant is given, they ask for a Monitoring Report which would show what the money was used for and the impact given, plus any images.

Sustainable Development Goals - 17 recognised goals. Agenda calls for partnership between all countries to tackle some of the world’s issues such as poverty, hunger and climate change.

Presentation available: www.supportstaffordshire.org.uk.

3. Local news/information

Ann Richards: Brewood Dementia Support Group – brewooddsq@gmail.com

Since COVID they have been able to secure a place in the Community Hub in Brewood and they do the last 3 Wednesdays of the month, with Singing for the Mind, Coffee Morning and CST Classes. Now they have moved out of Brewood Surgery they can offer services to the wider community and more than the 4 villages previously. Group do their own fundraising, group has grown over past 2 years.

Leaflet to share:

Sharon Lowe: Mental Health Matters – MPFT Support patients discharged from hospital to reintegrate into the community. Can support from age 18 upwards over Staffordshire. Short term intensive treatment 4-6weeks, can signpost and help with debts. Aim of the pathway is to stop people being readmitted to hospital. Sharon.lowe@mpft.nhs.uk

Mel Chapman: Beacon Friendship Group – Successful grant in 2019 which kickstarted the organisation. Used to support semi-retired people but now have younger audience. Meet socially for quizzes, exercises, etc. Closed in March 2020, but now starting to get back to normal. A lot of people have returned but some are still not ready, but they have been supporting them with phone calls. Numbers have increased. melgreenway@hotmail.com

Dan Gibbons Resolve: dan.gibbons@re-solv.org

Leaflets and resources - Anne to send out to all who attended the Forum.

Nick Kelly: Sporting Communities – The Staffordshire Youth Awards – 29th October.
nick@sportingcommunitiescic.org

Joseph Birks: Making Space – Joseph.Birks@makingspace.co.uk

Recently acquired funding from Staffordshire Community Foundation to purchase tablets with data on for people to loan with no internet access as during COVID meetings were online.
Therecovery.hubstaffordshire@makingspace.co.uk www.wearemakingspace.co.uk

Bob Fletcher: Samaritans – National Suicide Awareness Day on 13th September. Enjoy listening to the success stories on the calls they receive.

Chris Calkin: WalkWise – New members for walking. Was on average 20 for a walk, now up to 30 people. First Walk Leader Training on 1st October. During COVID have lost some groups, encouraging new people to come in for socialisation. walkwise@btinternet.com

Denise Miller: Great Bridgeford Garden Guild – denise.milleruk@btinternet.com

Run an over 60's group called the Monday club, just recently reopened, 14 members returned and 5 new. Games, day trips, bingo. Denise looks after a Garden Guild, planning to reopen in January. Social event in November to see who would attend in January. Most are senior aged 70 plus.

Linda Harrington: Warmer Homes – Linda@beatcold.org.uk

They provide advice with fuel costs, many people needing help through pandemic. Can refer through form on website. www.beatcold.org.uk

Julie Perry: Julie Perry Legal Services – julie.perry@jacksonperry.co.uk

Specialises in working with people with Mental Health Issues, or support in that area. Gives free talks to groups, mainly Power of Attorney or Wills. Free advice.

Tony Innamorati: tony4inn@gmail.com

Gnosall Car Scheme – Moreton Community Centre over 50's Lunch Club next week. Some people still reluctant. Gnosall Car Scheme still going but short of drivers.

Lucy Cox: SCVYS – Youth groups have no restrictions now. Any groups that need support, volunteers, or with funding SCVYS can help. lucy@staffscvys.org.uk

Lucy Gratton – Still funding available, £5000, closes end of September.

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/DoingOurBit/Funding.aspx>

4. Support Staffordshire updates

Various workshops and Right Start Training

Just click on 'Training' on the front page of our website

We are still delivering 'supportive communities' bite sized training online on behalf of SCC
Sessions are FREE to anyone in the community and can help individuals gain new knowledge and skills

Please access our website to book onto any of these courses: www.supportstaffordshire.org.uk

Funding:

A list of current funding can also be accessed by clicking on the Funding tab on our website:

www.supportstaffordshire.org.uk

Consultancy Service:

Don't forget we also have a consultancy service available for members: if you need something specific, help with an application or something tailoring to your organisation, we can help you?

Volunteer Star Awards 2022

We will shortly be launching the Star Awards 2022 and opening the nomination process

In the meantime, you can view the video and photos from the virtual star awards gallery by simply clicking the link on our website and choosing the relevant area

5. All groups attending the forum have been asked to fill out the feedback form which is now online:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjpBJXLPFoLwhVz6vAQe0mn890tNQCSBLO6wtcCmnUQ9fTDQ/viewform>

6. **Date of next meeting: December 2021**