



STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS VCSE¹ LOCALITY FORUM

Notes from the meeting held on the 8th December 2015

Attendees:

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| Jill Norman – Support Staffordshire | Roy Gregg - @21 |
| John Larkham – Age UK | Carole Stone- North Staffs Users Group |
| Shelagh Bacchus - Cheadle CAB | Lorien Barber – VAST |
| Barbara Wain – Changes Health & Wellbeing | Sue Green – Support Staffordshire |
| Maxine Richardson – Staffs Fire & Rescue | Mark Forrester – Staffs Moorlands DC |
| Julia Cook – Farming Life Centre | |

Apologies:

- | | |
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| Val Harris | Claire John - SCVYS |
| Mark Lawton – Brighter Futures | Liz Rhodes – Leek Ramblers and Fresh Air Fitness & Friends |
| Andy Collins – Borderland Voices | Sandra Hall – Headway |
| John Irons – Changes | David Edwards – Headway |
| Judith Broun | Gail Edwards- Staffs CC |
| Laura Cunningham – Staffs CC | |

No	Item
1	<u>Welcome & introductions</u> Jill welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves to the group.
2	<u>Election of Chair</u> It was agreed that Jill Norman chair this meeting.
3	<u>Community fire stations in Leek and Biddulph</u> Maxine Richardson of the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) updated the meeting on the developments in both Leek and Biddulph. The new Leek community fire station is due to be open from March 2016 with opening hours 9am to 10pm Mon-Fri and 9am-4pm Sat and Sun with a receptionist there during those hours. It will include a meeting room accommodating up to 10 people as well as space on the ground floor that community groups can use on an ad hoc basis, e.g. hot desking, or on a more regular basis by arrangement. There is no cost for using rooms. All that is asked is for some promotion of the SFRS messages. (Currently there is also space for hot-desking at Kidsgrove, Longnor and Longton fire stations.) If a charity uses a room regularly they may be deemed a “trusted partner” and given a swipe card to get in. It was noted that Moorlands Radio will have a base at the new Leek community fire station.

¹ VCSE = Voluntary, community and social enterprise

	<p>The new Biddulph community fire station is due to be open in September 2016. It will have a community room that can accommodate up to 50 people.</p> <p>All booking details for rooms at any community fire stations, and other information, can be found on www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk</p>
<p>4</p>	<p><u>Minutes of the last meeting</u></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed with the additional note under Newsround:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From 30th September 2015 the Age UK North Staffs advice and information centre in Russell Street, Leek will be closed due to the ending of funding for that service. <p>Matters arising:</p> <p>a) CCG Commissioning- Lorien Barber gave an update: There had been a VCSE workshop on 26th November to discuss a health sector strategy for working with the Stoke and North Staffs CCGs through a collective approach. The next steps are to make slight revisions to that draft strategy then get it on the agendas for the governing bodies of the 2 CCGs. A collaborative sector offer on responding to winter pressures was made by Lorien last week and was very well received which indicates that this approach can work. Once the strategy is accepted by the CCGs it may go to the Commissioning Congress. There is a Primary Care Strategy being released next week and that recognises the role of the VCSE sector.</p> <p>On funding for 2016/2017, there is a CCG meeting next week about contracts that is likely to suggest that funding remains the same. No decision has yet been taken about 2016/2017 grants to the sector. It was noted that there is considerable alignment between the North Staffs CCG and the Stoke CCG.</p> <p>b) Feedback on Support Staffordshire – Jill circulated the summary of the comments made at the last meeting [attached to the minutes]. She asked the meeting if they could make comments this time on the training needs they faced and what training topics they would like Support Staffordshire to focus on, either for their own organisation or for the sector generally.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p><u>Moorlands Together</u></p> <p>Mark Forrester updated the meeting on Moorlands Together which is a development from the old Local Strategic Partnership, being a vehicle for the local public sector partners to align. Last year there were two parts of the District Commissioning process with stage 1 involving producing a plan on one page to apply for funding. Moorlands Together then selected those plans which best fitted their priorities to go forward for stage 2 application. The funding available was mainly public health. The aim was to get local solutions for local issues. However, the commissioners did not always know what might be available from the VCSE sector when setting their priorities so, in the Moorlands, it was decided to involve the sector in a more co-productive approach.</p> <p>A conversation was started through a workshop on 13th October which centred</p>

	<p>around 2 themes. At this stage Moorlands Together does not know what public health money will be available. The Government has continued to ring-fence the funding but it is reduced and there are competing demands at different levels of the commissioning process. The initial amount available should be known by the end of December.</p> <p>As far as Staffs Moorlands DC is concerned, it only has a small allocation of funding direct to a limited number of VCSE organisations such as the CABx. Northgate has been commissioned to help make efficiency savings through the procurement process.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p><u>Building Better Opportunities</u></p> <p>Jill explained that this pot of European funding, matched by the Big Lottery Fund, is an innovative approach to engaging a wide range of VCSE organisations, even the small local ones, with addressing social inclusion and helping those furthest from the job market to progress towards work. Team Staffordshire is a consortium of VCSE organisations which has submitted bids for each of the three areas in Stoke and Staffordshire, based on over 190 expressions of interest from VCSE and public sector organisations already active in the area. The outcome of these stage 1 applications should be known in the New Year and whichever bidders (one for each of the 3 areas) is chosen will be asked to develop a stage 2 application by July with a view to delivery from the summer of 2016.</p> <p>Responding to a question about other European funding, Jill commented that the new LEADER programmes offered support for rural projects that can create jobs and growth. For more information look for the Staffordshire LEADER programme on www.staffsleader.org.uk and for the Peak District LEADER on www.derbyshireeconomicpartnership.org.uk/Rural-Derbyshire/Leader-in-the-Peak-2015-to-2020</p>
<p>7</p>	<p><u>Newsround</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lorien highlighted the growing importance of GP commissioning and that this could be a source of support for some VCSE activities • Julia Cook explained the work of the Farming Life Centre which supports farming and health projects in farming communities. For more information see www.thefarminglifecentre.org.uk • John Larkham reiterated that whilst Age UK North Staffs no longer had a drop-in advice service in Leek, Moorlands residents could access help through their phone line or Hanley office. He also explained that the Age UK charity shop in Leek was not part of Age UK North Staffs. He added that they were currently working with Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service on a pilot SAFER project which meant SFRS officers referring people to Age UK if they spot that it might be relevant when they are visiting on home fire safety checks. • Shelagh reported that Cheadle CAB is currently working with some GP



	<p>practices in Cheadle on a pilot GP referral project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara said that Changes now operate a service for young people around mental health in Stafford and Stone with a base at The Core, 18 Martin Street, Stafford.
8	<p><u>Items for next meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-line services • Staffordshire Chambers services • Prevent • Healthy Staffordshire
9	<p><u>Dates of future meetings:</u></p> <p>Tuesday 1st March 2016</p> <p>2pm at the Support Staffordshire (Staffordshire Moorlands) Training Room, 9 High Street, Leek, ST13 5DZ</p>

For further information please contact: Support Staffordshire (Staffordshire Moorlands) Tel: 01538 381356

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