

ICP Volunteer Managers Network

Spring 2025

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Welcome to the Spring edition of the ICP Volunteer Managers Network Newsletter.

The ICP Volunteer Managers Network provides an opportunity for partners working with volunteers across the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Partnership an opportunity to share ideas and best practice, 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 colleagues and 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**



Volunteering For Health Project Update

Our Vision is: "A thriving volunteering culture supports the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (SSOT) Integrated Care System to deliver high quality health and care for our local population."

We plan to reach this vision by:

- Delivering a step change in the volume of volunteering and the range of volunteering opportunities in SSOT ICS
- Ensuring volunteers have a positive and rewarding volunteering experience
- Creating the infrastructure to enable SSOT ICS workforce to build local VCSE sector capacity at all levels whilst improving their wellbeing
- Enabling strategic leadership and systemwide learning to embed Volunteering for Health ambition in SSOT ICS.

Recent updates and developments:

- Volunteering for Health projects outcomes and milestones have been mapped out and submitted to the National Programme Facilitator. Excitingly, as soon as this document is signed off the programme will officially move into the delivery phase. Watch this space!
- We continue to strengthen our established partnerships, the Steering Group for the project as well as we are developing new connections across the NHS Trusts (UHNM, MPFT & NSCHC). We continue to raise the profile of the Volunteering for Health Programme and its potential to make a positive impact on Health and Care system.
- Working with the national Volunteering for Health programme and its 15 different partnerships on refining the strategy, overcoming barriers and sharing the best practice around shaping new and more sustainable system, including policies and processes and volunteer passporting.



Volunteering For Health Project Update

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Our next steps are:

- To design and deliver bespoke Volunteer Management training programme meeting NHS staff needs while raising awareness of best practice when working with volunteers.
- To understand the baseline of current volunteering offer across the NHS Trusts (UHNM, MPFT & NSCHC). Three different surveys (NHS Staff Survey, Volunteer Survey and Patient and Carer Survey) will be shared from the 2nd June 2025.
- There will also be multiple face to face opportunities for those in health to learn more about the programme and to have your voice heard; come and speak to the Volunteering for Health Project Officer at any of the locations below:

Monday 2nd June 2025
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Wellbeing Wagon,
Royal Stoke Hospital,
Stoke on Trent

Wednesday 4th June 2025
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Harplands Hospital- main
reception, Hilton Road,
Stoke on Trent

Haywood Hospital-
To Be Confirmed

County Hospital-
To Be Confirmed

Volunteering for Health enables and celebrates the opportunity for VCSE and Public sectors to offer skills and expertise to support the other with the overarching aim of improving the experience and outcomes of people using our health and care system.

Recognising and Celebrating Volunteers

Volunteers Week

Volunteers' Week is just around the corner and throughout the week, volunteers will be thanked for their contribution and dedication all across the UK!

Volunteers' Week fosters connections between national organisations and grassroots groups, celebrating the spirit of volunteering that enriches communities each year.

Join the party and dress your events with branded bunting, gift your volunteers with certificates and cards, and shout about your plans on social platforms with all the [free resources available to download](#).



Some of the ideas we discussed included:

- Coffee mornings and regular socials gathering
- Once or twice a year giving out thank you goodie bags
- Long-service awards
- Sharing volunteers' case studies
- Handing out certificates and cards with personalised messages
- Making the most out of Volunteers Week (2nd – 8th June), or International Volunteers Day to celebrate your volunteers and promote volunteering opportunities
- Developing an internal newsletter to share good news stories and celebrate the great work that has been done
- Having a 'Meet The Volunteers' feature on social media, or in the premises.
- Simple, free and yet so powerful **THANK YOU**

Future Topics

What are the benefits of volunteers recognition?

- Strengthens Public Image and Promotes Organisational Values
- Recognising volunteers demonstrates the organisation cares about people, this greatly improves its reputation while reinforcing the value of gratitude, service and community



- Highlights impact
- Celebrations offer great opportunities to showcase the outcomes and impact of volunteers’ work
- Encourages Retention and Inspires Others
- Volunteers who feel valued are more likely to return and continue to offer long-term service while inspiring others to volunteer
- Boosts motivation and Encourages Personal Growth
- Appreciated volunteers stay engaged, they always give their best and their positive experience fosters personal and professional development

- Improves Wellbeing
- Recognition boosts mental health and satisfaction while staying active and engaged maintains physical health
- Builds Community and Belonging
- Connecting people of diverse backgrounds over shared interest helps to fight for a good cause. It also fosters unity and enhances development of wider relationships

Topics you are interested in



Advertising Volunteer Roles

Both Support Staffordshire and VAST operate busy volunteer brokerage services across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent which you can benefit from!

If you're looking to recruit volunteers, our services can help you to find the right people with the right skills and experience. You can advertise different volunteer roles, seek advice and guidance on your volunteer management, policies and processes and much more.

Support Staffordshire:

You can find out more about Support Staffordshire's volunteer brokerage service [here](#).

VAST:

You can find out more about VAST's volunteer brokerage service [here](#).



A big thank you to those that attended our May meeting, and to those who have continued to spread the word about the ICP Volunteer Managers Network. Please continue to inform your colleagues about the Network as we'd love for it to continue to grow.

Our **2025 meeting** dates are:

14th August 10am – 11am

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)
[Join the meeting now](#)
Meeting ID: 352 154 990 206
Passcode: Ja35J5iv

12th November 1pm – 2pm

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)
[Join the meeting now](#)
Meeting ID: 319 680 894 447
Passcode: rn2Cp2hk

The meetings will be held via Microsoft Teams, and will last for one hour.

If you have any suggestions for the agenda, please email volunteering@vast.org.uk