“Ensuring the development and recognition of a vibrant, sound & diverse voluntary youth sector”
WHO WE ARE:

Josh Armitage - Engagement Coordinator (Maternity Cover)
Lucy Cox - Development Worker Stafford and South Staffs
Claire John - Development Worker Newcastle and Moorlands
Debbie Mason - Office Manager
Phil Pusey - Chief Executive Officer
Jane Reynolds - Development Worker Cannock and Lichfield
Fiona Squires - Engagement Coordinator
Christine Tate - Admin Assistant

Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS) was established in 1982 to meet the needs of young people by strengthening and supporting the work of local voluntary youth organisations.

Our Mission is to ensure the development and recognition of a vibrant, sound and diverse voluntary youth sector.

In other words, our work will help to create a dynamic voluntary youth sector characterised by strong local organisations run by capable people as well as meaningful engagement and effective partnerships.

Through the core infrastructure functions of influence, develop and connect, SCVYS adds a unique youth work specialism to providing information, advice and guidance, direct support, facilitated learning, networking, consultation and collaboration opportunities, as well as representing and promoting Staffordshire's voluntary youth sector wherever we can.

SCVYS is also recognised and endorsed as the Safe Network Ambassador for Staffordshire by Children England, NSPCC and the local Safeguarding Children Board, and leads the youth element of Staffordshire’s partnership with Ivanovo, Russia, supporting the development of youth work, cross cultural exchange and youth volunteering.

OUR CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES:

To promote good practice, efficiency and effectiveness of its member organisations for the benefit of children and young people in Staffordshire.

To support and develop work with children and young people, and their organisations, so as to enable them to develop their physical, intellectual and spiritual capacities to become fulfilled and responsible members of society.

To improve the quality of life of children and young people through the provision of activities, facilities and information relating to training, recreation, health and independent living.

To enable effective participation by children and young people at all levels by ensuring that children and young people’s voice, concerns and issues are represented wherever it is most appropriate.

HOW WE SPEND OUR FUNDING
SCVYS reputation is built on doing what we say we will, on time and with high quality, focusing on our core business of support for local youth organisations and their workforce (staff and volunteers), and ensuring children and young people have enough positive activities to participate in.

It has been another successful year, but not one without cost. The loss of Les Simmons, Operations Manager, to heart failure in July 2015 was a shock to the whole family of SCVYS. It was a fitting tribute that in March 2016 a number of awards named after him were presented to local young people and youth organisations. These individuals and organisations clearly demonstrated and evidenced the impact of their excellent work during the year.

Highlights from the year included:

• Growth in membership of 18% to 141 voluntary youth organisations.

• The number of children and young people who participate on a weekly basis has also risen from 21,104 to 24,603.

• The workforce includes 7,454 volunteer roles up from 5,279 and 440 paid staff up slightly from 409. These are mostly sessional workers rather than full time staff.

• SCVYS ran a Young Leader Weekend Residential in September 2015 with 16 young people gaining an OCN Level 1 qualification, as well as renewed confidence to return to their youth clubs to further develop their leadership skills.

• For the first time, SCVYS organised the long standing Bremen War Graves Friendship Camp here in Staffordshire to great success. As well as recruiting 7 local participants, two young leaders were also selected to support the 2 week programme.

• SCVYS began to build a new model of youth engagement, including taking on the County wide forum for engaging with County Council Cabinet members around key youth priority themes.

• Recruitment of youth delegation for a week in Russia. As well as sightseeing the young people completed some social action projects in Ivanovo, workshops around cultural exchange as well as staying with host families. The average age of the delegation was 18, including the volunteer leaders.

• SCVYS and member group Burton YMCA were also able to send representatives to support Ivanovo’s Day of the City celebrations shortly followed by Ivanovo YMCA’s 20th birthday events including the opening of Russia YMCA’s new residential centre.

• The popular SCVYS Live event returned after a one year break, and proved to be really beneficial for group leaders and young people whilst providing the VIPs who attended the day a real insight into the diverse and vibrant contribution of the local youth sector.

• SCVYS ensures as much direct support as possible is passed to the front line delivery organisations, and this year 78% (61% last year) of resource falling within our remit was passed on in tangible benefit including small grants, venue hire costs, free training, DBS administration and a range of support services provided by our excellent staff.

• Representation of the voluntary youth sector on the Safeguarding Children Board, Families Strategic Partnership and West Midlands Youth Strategic Leads Network including the development of an Early Help Strategy and Delivery Plan.

• Ongoing role of Safe Ambassador for Staffordshire providing access to training, helpful tools, policy support and safer recruitment advice including DBS administration for organisations.

Phil Pusey
Chief Executive

Keith Walker
Chair of the Board
SAFER RECRUITMENT AND DBS

The ability to check the criminal record of a new member of the workforce – volunteer or paid staff – is one important factor for the sector in safer recruitment practice, along with a robust overall application process including independent references. The DBS administration service is provided free of charge by SCVYS for volunteers in our member organisations to enable them to meet their safeguarding responsibilities, and for paid staff we only pass on the charge set by DBS themselves.

The number of checks being processed by SCVYS has risen dramatically in recent months from around 300 annually to 565 in the past year. Organisations from outside our membership are benefiting from our expertise in this area, and processing their applications through us for a small administrative charge.

This important process is helping to ensure that the voluntary sector operates as safely as possible for staff, volunteers as well as children, young people and other potentially vulnerable service users.

Other safeguarding support includes access to free online and face to face training through the Safeguarding Children Board, policy support, free poster with flowchart process to aid volunteers when they have a safeguarding concern and small business cards so that volunteers always carry with them the important telephone numbers for advice and referrals.

YOUNG LEADER WEEKEND

Young people from SCVYS member groups took part in our Young Leader Programme at Alton Castle during the weekend 18th – 20th September 2015. 16 young people enjoyed a full programme of practical tasks, group activities and drama based-sessions. Member groups including Interact Arts CIC, 1st Armitage Scouts and Touch of Life Dance Crew supported elements of the programme to keep everyone interested and engaged.

Throughout the packed weekend, we covered topics including volunteer rights and responsibilities, qualities of a good leader, Health and Safety, confidentiality and session plans – all relevant to a youth group setting.

Aarron Hawkins from Walton Hall Youth Community Hub (WHYCH) in Stone said “I’ve enjoyed learning about what it takes to be a young leader and have gained confidence to take back to my youth club”.

Young people who completed the weekend gained an OCN Level 1 in Work Preparation for Health and Social Care.
EARLY HELP FOR LOCAL CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

SCVYS has sought to influence the development of the Early Help Strategy and Implementation Plan during the last year. For many of us in the voluntary sector, the concept of providing early help to anyone that needs it seems like common sense. Why wouldn’t you seek to provide the right kind of support to address the root cause of an issue as soon as possible in order to prevent problems from becoming more complex in nature.

The County Council is now under an obligation from OFSTED to demonstrate how they will enable and support early help as a way of working throughout Staffordshire. This is relatively easy where partners share an obligation linked to an inspection, or where commissioned organisations can be held to account through a contract, but much harder when the only way of influencing is winning the hearts and minds of busy voluntary and community groups.

The strategy has been written by a multi-agency task group, and has been welcomed by members of the public as easy to read and understand. The implementation plan requires buy in at all levels and from all organisations working with children, young people and families. It involves culture change both from individuals who have become dependent on public services through to public services who need to address the root cause and build resilience and increasingly independence into individuals and families. This includes new ways of working, enabling the whole workforce, valuing community assets, making commissioning more effective and making the most of the earliest years in a child’s life. Understanding the impact of early help related activities also needs to be attempted even if this is likely to prove incredibly difficult to quantify.

As always the proof of the pudding will be whether the strategy and implementation plan result in actions that make a difference to ordinary people.

SUMMARY OF MEMBER BENEFITS STATEMENTS 2015 - 16

For the last 3 years, SCVYS have sent a summary statement outlining the benefits of membership to each one of our member organisations.

In our calculations, we include any grants made, including start up, local support, transition and endowment grants as well as those helping with the costs of using a school building. We put a value on any training accessed such as Emergency First Aid or Food Safety, as well as opportunities for young people such as young leader training, Bremen Camp or overseas opportunities like Ivanovo. Another key benefit is the administration of DBS checks on volunteers and staff, which is completed free for member organisations. These are all calculated at cost rather than commercial value. For example, Emergency First Aid places are valued at £40 whereas to purchase a place in a commercial company could be as high as £125. We also allocate the time put in by our development workers to support individual groups to be stronger and more sustainable, and also quantify time spent networking, representing and promoting on behalf of the sector as a whole.

Why do we do this exercise? Firstly, it is a helpful reminder to members not only of the benefits they have received, but also an opportunity for them to check they are getting everything they can from their membership. Secondly, it enables us to ensure that our focus remains on supporting front line groups. So, how did we do?

SCVYS Resource allocation

- **50%** Grants to Groups
- **1%** Training for Groups
- **2%** Provision of IAG/Direct Support
- **10%** Opportunities for Young People
- **1%** DBS Checks/Safeguarding
- **22%** SCVYS Costs unallocated to front line groups
- **5%** Representation
- **4%** Promotion
- **5%** Networking

Our contracted income this year was £382,849 plus £199,081 against use of schools, totalling £581,930, and so 78% or £453,014 of available resource directly benefits our member organisations.
Welcome to Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS) Annual Dashboard Report for 2015/16. This document provides a snapshot of SCVYS and the young people who actively participate in positive activities through our member groups in Staffordshire using a range of data. It forms part of a wider annual report but also stands alone as an indicator of the impact SCVYS is having in ensuring the development and recognition of a vibrant, sound and diverse voluntary youth sector in the County.

**Grants made to members**

£93,407

**Paid staff within SCVYS member groups**

Rising from 409 to 440

**Number of volunteers deployed in SCVYS member groups**

September 2015 = 7,454

- Adults: 4,390
- Trustees: 1,293
- Under 18s: 939
- Occasional helpers: 832

**Regular weekly participation**

Rising 16%

- Sept 2014: 21,603
- September 2015: 24,603

**Membership Groups**

September 2014 - 119

Rising 18%

September 2015 - 141

**DBS Checks completed**

565

62% INCREASE
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

SCVYS was asked to support and facilitate a number of local and County meetings to consult and engage with young people. Fiona Squires was appointed to develop from scratch. The first year was deemed experimental, with the opportunity to try different approaches and see what works. SCVYS overachieved on all targets, whilst recognising that this project is very much in development phase.

Young people expressed a desire to reinstate the UK Youth Parliament process and opportunity in Staffordshire, and this is a key priority for the next twelve months. They also raised issues around transport costs, the quality and consistency of information, advice and guidance in High Schools across the County and an ongoing concern around support for young people’s mental health and well being.

Fiona said “At a very local level young people have been supported to identify the issues they face as well as learn how to prioritise when the level of available resource is limited. It is early days for the project, but as we develop there is more clarity around the needs and wants of young people.”

SCVYS LIVE 2016

On Saturday 12th March 2016 around 220 people from across the County gathered at Sir Graham Balfour High School to celebrate the contribution of the local voluntary youth sector to life within Staffordshire. Participants included young people and voluntary youth leaders involved in a diverse range of youth groups. The morning demonstrated the diversity of the sector with song and dance from young people at Touch of Life Dance Crew, Burton Youth for Christ and Stoke Musical Youth Theatre, all were exceptional in their performances and Staffordshire Police Cadets performed a Guard of Honour for all guests.

SCVYS Live also featured guest speakers Her Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire Mr Ian Dudson CBE, Lady Chairman from Staffordshire County Council Mrs Janet Eagland and Police and Crime Commissioner Mr Matthew Ellis who all praised the great work that volunteers are doing within Staffordshire to offer activities to young people. Also present was MP for Stafford Mr Jeremy Lefroy.

Throughout the afternoon, many other groups offered insights into their programmes through informative exhibition stands and the event offered everyone an opportunity to network.

Phil Pusey, SCVYS CEO commented: “Today has showcased the considerable talent of local young people, and clearly evidenced the dedication of the many volunteers who support them to excel. The energy in the room has created new networking opportunities and people who came with questions or challenges have gone home with answers and opportunities to move forward.”

This year SCVYS also launched the Les Simmons Impact Awards in memory of our Operational Manager Les who passed away in July 2015. There were two awards; Impact by an organisation and Impact by a Young Person.

Les’ wife Caroline selected the winners and certificates were awarded to all those shortlisted and the winner in each category was presented with a glass trophy.

Congratulations to Werrington Young Person’s Support Group who won the group award and Rebecca Barmer from Bevan Lee Youth Club who won the young person’s award.

Selection of evaluation comments from attendees:

“Happy reminder of strength of voluntary youth sector”

“Very informative, good display of groups, inspiring young people”

“Great chance to meet other groups”

“Great for networking and promoting our organisation”

“Fabulous chance to see wonderful young people of Staffordshire”
2ND STAFFORDSHIRE YOUTH DELEGATION VISIT TO IVANOVO

23rd – 31st October 2015

6 young people supported by 2 young leaders joined together to represent Staffordshire's voluntary youth sector. This amazing experience included sightseeing in Moscow, cultural exchanges including staying with host families, a visit to a school, working alongside Russian young people whilst completing social action projects in an animal sanctuary as well as wide ranging activities in and around Ivanovo which broke down stereotypes and overcame boundaries.

Kate Pyatt from Greatwood Hall Youth Club and Girlguiding Staffordshire said: “I can honestly say this was one of the most amazing and unforgettable experiences of my life! I would recommend it to anyone who loves to travel, volunteer or who is just up for a fantastic time.

I have made so many friends who I continue to talk to and would do the whole thing again without a second thought. I will never be able to thank enough the people who made the trip happen and the Russians who were so welcoming and friendly.”

BREMEN 2015

Bremen Friendship Camp has been running in Staffordshire since 1962 via a partnership between the German War Graves Commission (Volksbund) and Staffordshire County Council. This was the first year that SCVYS organised and supported the camp, with its primary purposes of working on the German Cemetery graves, exploring themes of peace and reconciliation, learning the lessons of history and developing respect and understanding for another culture.

27 young people from Staffordshire and Germany mixed together as if they had known each other all their lives, learning about the backgrounds and lives of soldiers only just older then themselves, now buried on Cannock Chase.

Educational trips to the National Memorial Arboretum, RAF Cosford and Coventry Cathedral were part of the programme, alongside fun activities such as bowling, Alton Towers and High Ropes. The local Royal British Legion members were engaged throughout the fortnight, sharing stories and experiences with the young people. Local civic dignitaries attended a wreath laying ceremony at the Commonwealth and German Cemeteries, as well as a more relaxed friendship evening with the young people.

Katie Wilson, one of the young leaders and a past participant said,

“Overall, the project was a success once again. The participants and young leaders thoroughly enjoyed the camp programme, working well together, sharing a laugh and many have made friends for life! Everyone worked so hard and to see the participants fully engaged at all times was pleasing.”
In April 2011, when SCVYS began operating more independently of the County Council Youth Service, the local youth work arena was significantly different to today. Key themes included Integrated Youth Support Services (IYSS) causing the worlds of open access universal youth services and targeted services such as youth offending to collide and merge. Aligned with austerity measures it was clear that financial savings were high on the agenda.

So, in this changing landscape how has SCVYS fared, and more importantly what impact has this had on the local voluntary youth sector and indeed young people?

Adopting the Value of Infrastructure Programme Model devised by the National Council of Voluntary Organisations with support from Big Lottery Fund, SCVYS utilised the best available tools for the job of capacity building the local voluntary youth sector through the 9 functions of infrastructure support.

The outcomes are that many local youth groups are stronger and more sustainable, offering quality personal and social development programmes run by capable people, most of whom are volunteers, in a safe and positive environment.

The outputs also demonstrate significant growth in key areas such as regular participation and volunteering.

Below are 2 articles, one celebrating the impact of prolonged engagement and participation in the life of a local young person, the other explaining the dedication required from local volunteers and communities to sustain the provision of opportunities for local young people.

**Rise and fall rhythm of a local voluntary youth group**

Reading an annual report like this can lead people to think that voluntary and community involvement is easy and straightforward. The reality is somewhat different and over the last 5 years our development workers have issues which could have resulted in the closure of many groups. Unfortunately, even with support some groups do end up closing, a clear indication of the rise and fall rhythm of a local voluntary youth group.

In 2012 Isabel was recruited by SCVYS to take part in the National Citizenship Service “Summer of a Lifetime” programme. Initially Isabel was extremely shy and concerned about the residential side of the programme as she had not previously been away from her parents for any length of time. After successfully completing the 6 week programme, it was apparent that Isabel’s confidence levels and self-esteem had grown significantly. Isabel occasionally volunteered at SCVYS events and when an opportunity arose to take part in a youth exchange visit to Kiev, Ukraine in 2013 she jumped at the chance. The theme of ‘Using sport as a tool to combat social exclusion’ fitted well with Isabel’s studies and interests. Again SCVYS staff noticed Isabel’s increasing confidence and she was invited to attend our AGM to talk about her experiences. In 2014 GYV Air Corps cadets urgently needed an extra volunteer to complete a team for a Gold Duke of Edinburgh pre-expedition and SCVYS identified Isabel as a potential candidate. Despite never having met the other young people on the expedition or having contact with the group before Isabel took up the challenge demonstrating a ‘can do’ attitude throughout. Isabel completed her college course with the top marks possible and started an apprenticeship at Whitemoor Lakes near Lichfield, after finding out about the opportunity at a SCVYS AGM. On completing her apprenticeship in 2016, gaining a range of outdoor education and leadership qualifications in water sports along the way, Isabel joined Entrance as an activity leader at Chasewater. She has almost completed her Gold D of E Award and continues to volunteer at SCVYS events. Isabel commented “I would encourage anyone to go for opportunities that present themselves. It has been a fantastic journey, making new friends, developing many skills and building my confidence along the way, which really helped me with college, apprenticeship and new employment in a job I enjoy. It is thanks to SCVYS that opportunities opened up and I’ve enjoyed and benefited from everything I have been involved in.”

Isabel is just one example of the thousands of young people who through positive activities and opportunities provided by the local voluntary sector begin to maximise their potential in life.

SCVYS have clearly and tragically demonstrated the capability to partner with the local authority in a significant transformation programme, supporting communities and voluntary sector to respond to local need by building on their local assets.

---

**SCVYS News**

**Isabel’s Journey - Case Study**

Isabel was recruited by SCVYS to take part in the National Citizenship Service “Summer of a Lifetime” programme in 2012.

Initially Isabel was extremely shy and concerned about the residential side of the programme as she had not previously been away from her parents for any length of time. After successfully completing the 6 week programme, it was apparent that Isabel's confidence levels and self-esteem had grown significantly.

Isabel occasionally volunteered at SCVYS events and when an opportunity arose to take part in a youth exchange visit to Kiev, Ukraine in 2013 she jumped at the chance. The theme of ‘Using sport as a tool to combat social exclusion’ fitted well with Isabel’s studies and interests. Again SCVYS staff noticed Isabel’s increasing confidence and she was invited to attend our AGM to talk about her experiences. In 2014 GYV Air Corps cadets urgently needed an extra volunteer to complete a team for a Gold Duke of Edinburgh pre-expedition and SCVYS identified Isabel as a potential candidate. Despite never having met the other young people on the expedition or having contact with the group before Isabel took up the challenge demonstrating a ‘can do’ attitude throughout.

Isabel completed her college course with the top marks possible and started an apprenticeship at Whitemoor Lakes near Lichfield, after finding out about the opportunity at a SCVYS AGM. On completing her apprenticeship in 2016, gaining a range of outdoor education and leadership qualifications in water sports along the way, Isabel joined Entrance as an activity leader at Chasewater. She has almost completed her Gold D of E Award and continues to volunteer at SCVYS events. Isabel commented “I would encourage anyone to go for opportunities that present themselves. It has been a fantastic journey, making new friends, developing many skills and building my confidence along the way, which really helped me with college, apprenticeship and new employment in a job I enjoy. It is thanks to SCVYS that opportunities opened up and I’ve enjoyed and benefited from everything I have been involved in.”

Isabel is just one example of the thousands of young people who through positive activities and opportunities provided by the local voluntary sector begin to maximise their potential in life.

SCVYS have clearly and tragically demonstrated the capability to partner with the local authority in a significant transformation programme, supporting communities and voluntary sector to respond to local need by building on their local assets.

---

**www.staffscvys.org.uk**
Number of SCVYS members

- **2011 - 92**
- **2015 - 141**

Value of volunteering contribution

- Risen from £8 million to over £12 million per year.

Total annual reach of members has risen from 25,000 to over 72,287 children and young people.

Paid staff within SCVYS member groups

- **2011** = 94
- **2015** = 440

Roles undertaken by the Volunteer Workforce have grown

- **2011** = 4,691
- **2015** = 7,454

Number of Children and Young People regularly participating

- **2011** = 18,553
- **2015** = 24,603

Grants made to members

- **2010/11** = £53,000
- **2015/16** = £93,407
August 2016 marks the beginning of a new era for SCVYS. As the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector Strategic Partner for the local County Council, we will be working closely to build community capacity to enable people to live more independently of services. To ensure full geographical coverage of the County and to best use expertise, SCVYS has partnered with Support Staffordshire and South Staffordshire Community and Voluntary Action. The new contract focuses on four priority areas as part of a new and emerging Community Based Approach:

- Children and Families system transformation including leading on Early Help
- Youth – building on the success of recent years
- Place based services such as libraries, country parks, etc.
- Adult Health and Social Care

In addition there are some cross cutting themes such as:

- Increasing the amount of funding available to the sector in the County via external bids, etc.
- Enabling and supporting additional volunteering and focused social action
- Creating new tools to enable people to get the help they need when they require it from the best possible place.
- The reduction in funding for public services is obviously a major driver for this agenda, although it is important to note that most people don’t want the stigma of accessing services and would rather be supported by family and friends, at least initially.

SCVYS and our partners are here to support individuals and groups to come together to make a real difference to their communities.

- Living more independently of services as resilient individuals and family groups
- Self solving local issues through people helping people
- Accessing external resources where available
- Building community spirit through social action and volunteering
- Improving the quality of life, health and well being for all.

We all want Staffordshire to be a great place to live, work and play and SCVYS aims to work with individuals, communities and across all sectors to contribute to lasting positive transformational change.