On Saturday 10th March, we held another young leader training course, this time at Beaudesert Activity Centre. We took a group of eleven young leaders from across Staffordshire and from different organisations to have a fun packed day with activities and leadership skills.

The course started with icebreakers and getting to know each other and we learnt about what everyone does in their own organisation.

We followed this by looking at the different qualities of famous world leaders and how the young people could transfer some of these leadership styles to their own organisations. We discussed some examples of challenging situations, how organisations are governed by trustees and session planning. The course also covered equality and discrimination and we considered the importance of risk assessments and how to lead sessions safely.

Read more on page 4
Sitting at a partnership event in Stafford this week I found myself reflecting on the epic events of Dunkirk in 1940 and some potentially transferrable insights. I had better explain.

Big ships were not the whole answer to the challenges of getting nearly 340,000 soldiers off the beaches in Dunkirk, in fact this severely limited their ability to get close to the shore, as well as being a larger target for enemy fire. Any successful hit would also result in major loss of life.

In comparison, the 800+ smaller boats were able to get much closer to the shore, were more agile in avoiding enemy fire, and if they did get hit would result in much lower loss of life overall.

We’re not quite in Dunkirk, but there are certainly lots of individuals, families and communities who need help and support with the life challenges they are facing. For the last 40-50 years the public sector has been sending in the big boats to help and support people, but the present challenging climate means a change of approach is required.

It is the equivalent of the small boats that are needed today – the individuals who want to make a difference; the families who look out for each other; communities who through neighbourliness, activism, participation and involvement in voluntary services provide strong networks to ensure no one falls through the gaps.

At Dunkirk, hundreds of ordinary people were inspired to do what they could with whatever they had available with miraculous results.

What will each of us do with what we have been given and can we join in with a movement of people helping people?

Our 2017 census of members across the children and young people’s voluntary sector in Staffordshire clearly evidences the growing commitment to this kind of movement.

It is compiled from responses from 150 out of 155 organisations in membership, who run a total of 867 delivery sessions, most of which operate on a weekly basis.

SCVYS is now supporting 180 organisations in our membership, and so we look forward to celebrating your successes and achievements when the 2018 Census is published later this year.

Phil’s blog

27,658
Children & Young People regularly participating in positive activities
(27% increase)

9,242
Active Volunteer roles supporting member CYPF groups
(16% increase)

37,226
Registered members of Youth organisations
(18.8% increase)

1,908
Volunteers have achieved Awards
(122% increase)

212
Young People achieved DofE Awards
(138% increase)

613
Paid Roles within member CYPF groups
(66% increase)
Bremen Friendship Camp

15th to 29th July

We are now recruiting for our annual summer project in partnership with the German War Graves Commission. You will have the chance to get to know other young people from both Staffordshire and Germany and make friends for life during the two week residential.

This project takes place at a residential centre on Cannock Chase and is for young people aged 16-17 who live in Staffordshire - it is completely free.

The project is themed around peace and reconciliation since the world wars and we will be joined by students from Germany to take part in trips, activities and educational visits. This will include visiting the German cemetery and taking part in civic events with representatives from the County Council and other dignitaries.

If you know any young people who are interested in taking part, please contact the SCVYS office for further information and application forms.

If you would like to take part please email Josh: josh@staffscvys.org.uk

What’s Coming up...

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course / Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>First Aid Training</td>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>14th April</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lichfield</td>
<td>16th June</td>
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<td>Cannock Chase Funding Fair</td>
<td>Rugeley</td>
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<td>Effective Bid Writing</td>
<td>Cannock</td>
<td>24th April</td>
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<td>Burton on Trent</td>
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<td>Young Leader Training</td>
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<td>12th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bremen Friendship Camp</td>
<td></td>
<td>15th to 29th July</td>
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Look out for...

Challenging Behaviour

For all training and events information visit our website calendar http://www.staffscvys.org.uk/scvyscalendar.html
Young Leader Training

As well as classroom activities, the young leaders enjoyed archery and demonstrated some excellent team work skills in crate stacking.

Everyone who took part received a certificate and SCVYS t-shirt for completing the course and had an amazing time meeting new people, sharing ideas and having fun at the same time.

We will be running our next one day course at Stanley Head Outdoor Education Centre on Saturday 12th May – if you have any young leaders who are interested, contact the office for an application form.

Tel: 01785 240378 or Email: office@staffscvys.org.uk

We will be running our next one day Young Leader Training Course at Stanley Head Outdoor Education Centre on Saturday 12th May – if you have any young leaders who are interested, contact the office for an application form.

Youth Council

On Saturday 17th March, SCVYS launched a new youth council for Staffordshire. The idea was suggested by the elected Members of Youth Parliament to support them in their role and ensure that young people in Staffordshire can share their ideas with decision makers.

Eight young people met in County Buildings in Stafford (and one via Skype!) to plan what the youth council will be doing, who can be members and what they want to campaign on. Elections were held for Chair and Vice Chair, where Millie was selected as Chair of the Youth Council and Morgan as Vice Chair.

The young people decided that the youth council will be known as ‘Speaking Out for Staffordshire’ and will be campaigning for a Curriculum for Life to ensure every young person has the opportunity to learn life skills and also campaigning on Mental Health, promoting positive mental health and how to encourage mental wellbeing.

If you would like to meet with the youth council or be visited by any of the young people, please contact josh@staffscvys.org.uk
Werrington Lottery Winner

The first draw of 2018 for the Werrington lottery took place at the Washerwall Lane Co-op and was drawn by local resident Amy Hall. The winning number was 110. You have to be in it to win it and if you would like to know more about the Werrington Lottery which raises funds for village projects call 01782 303192 or visit http://werringtoncommunitylibrary.org.uk/werrington-lottery/.

Photograph shows Community Volunteers Jean Fryer and Chris Lewis with Amy and Lottery Organiser Jocelyn Morrison

Local Councillor fundraises to support Voluntary Sector

Cllr David Shaw was elected as Chairman of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council from 2015-2016. By tradition the Chairman raises money for a special fund to help good causes in the area. Cllr Shaw chose to raise money to support Children, Youth and Family activities to enhance the lives of future generations in the Moorlands.

He raised a fantastic £4,540.45 and donated this to Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS) to support the start-up of new provision and to increase capacity building of existing groups specifically within the Moorlands to support them to become more sustainable.

Through an application process set out with clear guidelines on eligibility criteria, new and existing youth groups were able to apply for a grant.

SCVYS had the privilege of distributing these grants to eight different organisations, all of whom supported Children, Young People and Families in wonderful and diverse ways.

One such group to benefit was Staffordshire Clubs for Young People who have started delivering detached youth work in Cheadle, with a view to opening a youth club. They are also starting a new football session at Biddulph Youth & Community Zone on Thursday evenings. The money helped Staffordshire Young Farmers who have a growing network of provision throughout the county, to set up a group in Cheadle and the Leek Food Co-Op ran a summer programme around healthy eating.

The other groups to benefit were Connected Youth CIC, Biddulph Youth and Community Zone, Gaming Potion, Haregate Junior Youth Club and North Staffs Parent Support Group.

SCVYS development worker Claire John who administered the fund said it was a testament to the Moorlands to see the range of groups we were able to help and the number of people that they represent. On behalf of SCVYS, and all of the local voluntary groups mentioned above, I would like to thank Cllr David Shaw for his kind generosity and support.

Pictured right – top – Gaming Potion and North Staffs Parent Support Group

Newcastle under Lyme

Sporting Communities visit No.10 Downing Street

Sporting Communities were recently invited to take a trip to Number 10 Downing Street. After communication with Prime Minister Teresa May, Sporting Communities Directors were invited to liaise with Nero Ughwujabo, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister on Social Justice, Young People and Opportunities.

Mr Ughwujabo was very impressed with the work that was being conducted in Staffordshire, in particular the youth related activities that Sporting Communities are delivering in the Staffordshire Moorlands where local MP Karen Bradley is also an avid supporter.
On The 15th Feb we teamed up with our partner organisation Support Staffordshire to host a funding fair at the Salvation Army Church in Leek. Over 100 people came through the door representing voluntary groups across the district and had the opportunity to meet the organisations and discuss potential projects. The funders each made brief presentation about the kind of projects they would usually work with and we even heard the top tips for a successful application!

Claire John from SCVYS said she was so pleased that so many people were able to take advantage of the opportunity which included an audience with representatives from Children in need, the Arts Council, Heritage Lottery, Sport across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (SASSOT), Staffordshire Community Foundation, Tesco Bags for Help, Staffordshire Crowdfunding, South West Peak Landscape Partnership Community Fund and the Charity Bank

Claire commented “To be in a room with this many funders and the opportunity to quiz them, get advice and glean information is a great use of 2-3 hours by anyone’s standards.”

The day saw a steady flow of delegates, each with ample opportunity to meet the funders and have a short informal chat or book an appointment for later on in the day, there was a workshop from Staffordshire Community Foundation who talked to groups about the Police & Crime Commissioners Fund and how groups could access it.

Claire and Matthew tweeted the top tips as they were suggested; here are three of our favourites

The Arts Council suggested ‘Ask your Grandma or next door neighbour if they understand your application, keep it simple.’

Sport across Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire (SASSOT) said simply... ‘Don't Waffle’

And we think the best one came from Children in Need ‘Know the difference between an outcome and an activity’

We wish all the best to any groups for whom the Funding Fair will or has resulted in an application, and if you are reading this and feel like you have missed out, why not check out the next funding fair which will take place at Rugeley Community Church on 19th April from 4.00pm, see our website to book your free place!

On the evening of 16th February, Stone YFC held its annual race night at its new location, Fulford Village Hall. Commentator for the night as well as race auctioneer was Philip Fitzpatrick, whilst Natalie Roe, Club Leader of Stone YFC lined the horses up in the starting gate ready for the off. With the push of a button the horses soon raced across the screen with the punters cheering them on. During the evening the Advisory supplied nibbles and circulated cheese and crackers provided by the club to the punters in the paddock.

Whilst the horses took a rest, Philip led the punters in a game of Irish bingo, which on the last call produced two winners. During the evening club members manned the tote and pay out booth along with raffle tickets which were also on sale. At the end of the night which just raced away, Phillippa Bourne, Club Treasurer thanked everyone for their support and announced that the evening had raised an estimated £1000. Which would be divided between Katharine House Hospice, this years club charity and the club itself.
Stafford

Upbeat Families Project at Staffordshire Barracks

Make Some Noise’s vision is that the lives of young people in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent will be significantly enhanced by high quality opportunities to make music. Make Some Noise believes music inspires young people, and for many is also a catalyst for positive change. We explore innovative approaches that work towards better access to music for young people.

Upbeat Families sessions for Forces families with pre-school children has increased participation in Early Years Music making, supporting development of skills across the EYFS prime areas of learning and development and strengthened family attachment ensuring relationship resilience through participation in creative musical activity.

The success of the group has seen a large population of Nepalese families join and families have requested a second session to run during the week.

Stafford Barracks has undergone a significant change in personnel and seen an increase of Nepalese families to the site. With no Nepalese Welfare officer on site, families being supported have language as a barrier to engagement. Our previous Upbeat Families sessions have enabled these families to be engaged, music and songs breaking down barriers to engagement where other services have struggled.

The sessions are free, funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund. They take place at The Dixon Centre, The HIVE, Tedder Road, off Beaconside, Stafford on Tuesday mornings 10.00 – 11.00am.

Gnosall

GG's youth club in Gnosall (Gnosall Grosvenor) continues to go from strength to strength

…and now opens two nights each week for junior and senior youth club. The local community in Gnosall fully support GG’s and recently, £600 was donated from a community jar from George and The Dragon pub in Gnosall in which customers donate their spare change. This additional boost will help fund some exciting trips in the spring and summer months. Recent events at GG’s have focussed on special dates in the annual calendar such as Valentines Day, Pancake Day, Mothers Day and plans are being finalised for an Easter Egg hunt at the end of March.

Eccleshall

The Young Eagles

…was created for young people 14-18 years to meet in a safe warm place each Wednesday 5.00-7.00 pm. It came about as a result of Martin and Karon Covington (the licensees of the Eagle Inn) wanting to do something for the young people who often were seen peeking through the window at the footie on the big screens.

Then as part of the Police and Crime Commissioners funding initiative, the youth worker in charge of the outreach project, helped to create the drop in. With support from the local Police, volunteers and SCVYS, the Young Eagles is now being set up as an official youth group.

Young people can play pool, darts and play the jukebox for free and enjoy a reduced price menu of food and drinks (non-alcoholic naturally).
Magical Unicorn Sleepover for Rugeley Brownies

10th Rugeley Brownies had an amazing weekend having an unicorn sleepover and completing their Riders badge on 'unicorns'!

The girls had a go at riding, grooming, decorating and leading the unicorns around obstacle courses as well as learning all about them.

They also had lots fun making unicorn pillows, fudge, door holders and dream catchers. This year marks the 45th birthday of 10th Rugeley Brownies and this truly was a magical start to their birthday year.

For information on Girlguiding Staffordshire visit their website: [https://girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk/](https://girlguidingstaffordshire.org.uk/)
The Friends of Hednesford Park

Cannock Chase was designated as an AONB in 1958. The Friends of Hednesford Park secured some funding from Cannock Chase AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) to launch a new project with local young people. Cannock Chase is the largest surviving area of lowland heathland in the Midlands. Lowland heath is an internationally scarce and threatened wildlife habitat.

Hednesford Hills became a SSSi Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1992. The funding has paid for training for young people from Kingsmead School to learn about the importance of their local environment with the aim to support Kingsmead with their recently launched Duke of Edinburgh Award. The young people will be helping the Countryside Team and The Friends of Hednesford Park to conserve and preserve Hednesford Hills as part of their D of E volunteering criteria.

Andy Williams, Committee Member, said "Young people can make a real difference to our local environment whilst gaining valuable life skills for their career prospects, this is a wonderful opportunity and we are very grateful to Mrs Mincher, the new Head Teacher at Kingsmead."

The young people were outstanding today and really were a credit to Kingsmead, young people, Hednesford Park and Cannock Chase Council.

1. They learned about the importance of the SSSi site on Hednesford Hills.
2. They learned about safe tool use and carried out different tasks using a variety of tools to produce a rustic racing car.
3. They worked in small teams to make competitive rustic racing cars, problems solved and raced their creations on Hednesford Skatepark.
4. One of the ladies teams won to represent national women's day :)
5. They learned about the geology of Hednesford Hills, history of how the land has been used and the national importance of the site today.
6. They learned different methods of conserving the heathland and walked on to the hills to remove invasive trees on the hill in torrential rain.
7. They brought a small sample of silver birch saplings back to learn how to make a traditional beesom.
8. Each young person was handed a goodie bag by Anne Walker from Cannock Chase AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). The Friends of Hednesford Park applied for a funding bid to provide the course by Dave from The Forest of Mercia CIC.

All involved thoroughly enjoyed the day and hopefully the young people of Kingsmead will now continue to do volunteering for Hednesford Park to support their Duke of Edinburgh community volunteering and will continue to help protect Hednesford Hills for generations to come.
Norton Canes Judo Club set up in 2015, the aim was to provide friendly, welcoming and accessible Judo sessions. Everyone is welcome from the age of five including children with additional needs and people with disabilities.

Not all our club members want to compete but attend for the social element or just to improve their fitness levels. Norton Canes Judo Club supports members of differing levels and abilities to achieve their personal goals, build confidence, self esteem and wellbeing.

For members who wish to follow the competition route we are registered with the British Judo Association which is the governing body for judo in the UK. Our qualified Instructors will help members progress from smaller low grade competitions to ranking competitions to qualify to be on the British ranking lists, British Championships, GB squad, international competitions, and even the Olympics if participants are dedicated enough.

We have had several success stories. One parent's comment...

“Proud of Rachael today training at the National inclusion seminar… first time training at a different place with no-one there she knew. Made possible by the the confidence she’s gaining from attending Norton Canes Judo club …a very big deal for her… will try to make it a full day next year… little steps!”

We have also recently set up an additional opportunity to compliment our existing Judo sessions. We have identified that opportunities for families to increase their activity in the area were limited and could also be costly.

To enable the club to provide this opportunity, Staffordshire County Councillor, Johnny McMahon, kindly funded the running costs from January 2018 for three months to enable the sessions to be offered at no cost.

Sessions are delivered by fully qualified level 3 personal trainer which includes fit2 box, kettle bell and circuit training with various pieces of equipment.

We have received a lot of support from our local SCVYS Development Worker, Jane Reynolds, who commented

“Norton Canes Judo Club are a member of SCVYS who supports 0-5 and youth voluntary provision in Staffordshire. The club was keen to widen its opportunities to encourage more families to become active.

It's great to see young people and families increasing their fitness levels, getting active and having fun in a safe environment with a qualified instructor.

I attended the session last week and thoroughly enjoyed it.

If you would like to find out about youth and 0-5 activities in your area, or support to set up a voluntary group please go to www.staffscvys.org.uk”

Judo and Fitness at Norton Canes Community Centre
WS11 9SF

Judo is on Monday and Thursday 6.00-7.00pm (first session free)

Fitness is on Monday 7.00-8.00pm (More classes may be available in the future)

For further information email:- nortoncanesjudoclub@hotmail.com
Countywide

Staffordshire Young Farmers County Chairman, Richard Mottershead has launched his county-wide campaign, entitled, #oatcakeontour! The campaign involves a Giant 4 ft round Oatcake (made from wood), which will “tour” around the 11 YFC Clubs in the county, starting with a launch on Saturday 10th March at the federation’s Annual Dinner Dance to his home club, Ashley YFC. The Oatcake will then travel from club to club with the purpose to the campaign being that whilst the Oatcake is “on tour”, members will raise funds for the worthwhile charity, YoungMinds, the UK’s leading charity championing the wellbeing and mental health of young people.

The finish line of the #oatcakeontour will be a Charity Beer Festival complete with live music, food and entertainment, where all proceeds will also be donated to YoungMinds. This will be held at The Staffordshire YFC Centre, based at the County Showground, Stafford on Saturday 30th June from 2pm until midnight.

Richard explains his reasons behind the idea of fundraising. “I was watching a programme on the television about Mental Health and was shocked to learn that 75% of deaths under the age of 35 was due to suicide. Farming is a lonely and proud profession and people are sometimes isolated and find it difficult to confide in their families. I decided that during my year as County Chairman of Staffordshire Young Farmers Club, which is part of the largest rural youth organisation in the UK, I would raise money for YoungMinds. In doing so, making more young people aware that there is help, support and compassion at the end of the phone.”

All clubs will be taking up this challenge and meeting with their members in the coming weeks to organise what their unique fundraising idea will be. It may be as simple as a car wash or quiz night, or more challenging such as transporting the Oatcake via a sponsored walk from Club to Club.

The Oatcake will make special appearances at the federation’s Annual Rally on 12th May where Uttoxeter JNFU will be passing it onto Ridware YFC and also at the Staffordshire County Show at the end of May where it will arrive with Lichfield YFC and leave with Chase YFC.

Under the Y F Sea

On Saturday 10th March, Staffordshire Young Farmers Clubs (YFC) held their sell-out Annual Dinner Dance at the Ingestre Suite on the County Showground for over 450 YFC members, guests and supporters of the organisation. The Black Tie Dinner was themed as “Under the Y F Sea” and the evening was based around the deep blue sea and coral reefs! The evening commenced with County Chairman, Richard Mottershead welcoming guests by banging his trident and sitting in a giant illuminated clam!

Photographs in the foyer were taken against magnificent backdrop, designed and created by talented local member of Stone YFC, Philippa Bourne. Then, following a four-course meal, members and guests danced to Tecno, Tecno Disco, enjoyed a flutter on the Casino and socialised with members past and present in true YFC style. The raffle on the night was supported by Barclays Bank Match Funding for up to £1000 and prizes ranged from whisky and wine to vouchers for days out, all kindly donated by the federation’s Vice Presidents, who support Staffordshire YFC throughout the year.

Also on the evening, Richard Mottershead officially launched his #oatcakeontour campaign with the giant 4 ft Oatcake which is working its way around the 11 Staffordshire YFC clubs, being handed over to Ashley YFC, Richard’s own club, for the first leg of its journey.

For more up to date information and finer details on the Oatcake route, please go to the Staffordshire YFC’s website www.staffsyoungfarmers.org.uk. To get involved in sponsoring the Beer Festival or become more involved in Staffordshire YFC, please contact Julia Taylor, County Organiser on 01785 248645.
Staffordshire Police Cadets have had a busy few months in 2018. We are starting our 10th and final unit in the Moorlands at Leek Community Fire Station which goes live on the 16th March 2018. Newcastle Unit have now been issued with their uniforms and are growing in size every week.

Our Lord Lieutenant’s Cadet Megan Montford is coming to the end of her term of office and we are now looking at others to replace her. She has been a credit to us and we thank her for all her commitments this past 12 months. It is anticipated that a new High Sheriff’s Cadet will be appointed and we again thank Section Leader Jade Griffiths from Longton and Cadet Matthew Hindley from Cannock for all their hard work during 2017/18.

Forthcoming Events

The Cadets are now getting many requests for assistance, varying from shed lock initiatives with Stafford Unit, leaflet drops in Longton and Burton, Summer Fete requests from Clifton Campville and three others, and a recently arranged visit for one unit to the Houses of Parliament in August 2018. Numbers continue to increase and we will soon be hitting the magic number of 300 Cadets throughout the County. Leaders’ numbers are increasing every week with the Police Cadets now being the fastest growing Cadet Force in the United Kingdom.

Attestations have also been arranged for our Burton and Lichfield Units in the next few months.

Countywide

The Funding Fair will take place on 19th April at Rugeley Community Church with funders attending including Big Lottery, Children In Need, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Sport England, Staffs Community Foundation, OPCC, Arts Council, Veolia, Tesco Bags for Help, Staffordshire Crowdfunding, Amazon and the Charity Bank.

Entry is free but we do require participants to sign up through the Eventbrite page, numbers are limited and we anticipate that it will reach capacity before the day!

Sign up today

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cannock-chase-funding-fair-tickets-43163583440

Next Funding Fair …Rugeley
19th April