

Children Matter

News Bulletin

Issue No.3

August 2017



Summer Term 2017



Welcome to our Summer edition featuring news from our Children Matter Teams in both south and north Staffordshire. What a successful first 12 months for our unique partnership. Since we expanded to cover the whole of Staffordshire we have successfully recruited an additional 26 schools and 45 volunteers across the whole of the county. This has really surpassed our expectations and we are delighted to welcome so many people to our intergenerational family.

We have also had a very busy summer, attending networking and recruitment events, raising the profile of our Big Lottery funded project and we have an exciting Autumn Term to look forward to. We will be launching our next Writing and Colouring Competition for schools so watch out for the flyers and entry forms arriving in school very soon and more information will be in our next news bulletin just after Christmas.



Design a Logo Competition

We held a Logo Competition during the Summer Term and all our schools were invited to take part. We were looking for a new logo for the project which could be used on merchandise materials using our 'CMLT' initials. We received nearly 400 amazing entries which were shortlisted to five finalists. All the finalists were then posted on our Facebook page and put to a public vote! The winning entry, with 117 'likes' was designed by Jodie Leigh, aged 11 from John



Jodie's winning design

Wheeldon Primary Academy in Stafford. Debbie and Lisa attended a celebration assembly on 20th July to present Jodie with a prize. There was also a prize for the school and a donation of books for the school Library. We are working with a design company now to produce some brand new project merchandise featuring Jodie's logo. We are hoping to share our new range of items with you at our next volunteer events.

Every child who entered a logo design was given a well done certificate and each school were presented with a donation of books for their library as a thank you for taking part.

The pupils of William Shrewsbury in Stretton and St Michael's First School in Penkridge are pictured looking delighted with their books and certificates!



Children Matter - Learning Together SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE

Networking event for Volunteers

We had an enjoyable day at the Shugborough Estate on 23rd August. The event was well attended by our southern staffs volunteers and was a great opportunity to catch up and share stories and experiences in such a lovely setting - the weather was kind to us too as the sun came out after a bit of a soggy start!



Summer Events - we attended lots of events over the summer term and during August - here are a few photos...



Tamworth Volunteer Fair



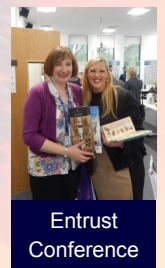
Penkridge Church Fete



Beacon Park Fun Day, Lichfield



Lichfield Live at Home Summer Fete, Curborough



Entrust Conference



Our Team Lead Rob Bruce said a sad farewell at the end of June. Rob has taken up an exciting new challenge as Chief Executive with a small charity closer to his home. We wish him all the very best for the future! Our new Head of Prevention & Wellbeing Manager, Kerry Coley, will be starting in September.



Penkridge Fun Run



Rugeley Helping Hands



Cannock Indoor Market

For Health Information Week 3rd - 7th July 2017 Age UK SS had information stands and held a taster session of a seated exercise class with our Charity Partners at Cannock Shopping Centre.



Children Matter - Learning Together NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE



Our volunteers were invited to the first northern staffs training session provided by our partners in the project, Entrust. They completed the Struggling Readers training which is designed to help volunteers engage with children while reading and includes an overview of phonics, difficult words and word games.

The volunteers really enjoyed the training and felt that what they learned in the session would help with their volunteering.

Our next Struggling Readers sessions are planned for 27th September at Newcastle Fire Station and January 10th venue TBC. Invitations will be going out in the next few weeks.



Some lovely feedback from Ann Hine (pictured, right), our volunteer at St Filumena's Catholic Primary School in Caverswall.

Ann said "It's the best thing I've ever done. I feel like I'm part of the school community. Everyone in the school is lovely and welcoming, and the children make me feel so special. I love to see the children try so hard even when they are struggling and it's so rewarding when they succeed. At the end of the school year I was given hand-made thankyou

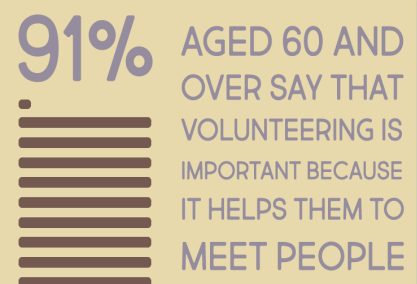
cards from all the Year 1 children and a bottle of wine & flowers from the school! Volunteering on the Children Matter Project is so rewarding and I would recommend it to anyone."

We are so glad that Ann is enjoying her role and feeling valued. If any of you have a heart warming story you would like to share regarding your role in school then please get in touch. We always love to hear your feedback and you might make it in to our next edition.



It was great to see so many volunteers from across the county at our joint North and South Staffs Volunteer Meeting at Amerton Farm back in April. The first of our annual joint get togethers.

We have met with another local voluntary organisation who are working to put volunteers aged 60+ into volunteering roles. The Vintage Volunteers Project is run by VAST and went live a couple of months ago. Children Matter Learning Together already have an advert on the website aiming to find more volunteers in the Stoke on Trent area. We are sure all our existing volunteers know the benefits, but just in case you needed any more convincing here is an amazing fact from Vintage Volunteers...



In other news....

SHOP WITH US and SUPPORT OUR WORK

If you're looking for a bargain or something unusual, why not check out our Charity Shop on The Strand, Longton?

Every surplus pound from the shop goes to support our work delivering quality services across North Staffs. Rose, our Shop Manager and her outstanding team make sure that our stock is constantly updated, that prices are keen, and there's always a warm welcome and assistance for every customer.



From clothing, shoes and jewellery for every occasion to DVDs, smaller items of furniture to books, from bric-a-brac to music, it's all there waiting to be discovered at 59, The Strand, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 2NS. We're open 6 days a week.

Our most recent figures show that income from the sale of donated goods generated almost £20,000 for the charity, so whether you're buying or donating your spare possessions, you really do make a big difference!

Age UK South Staffs Positive Steps are moving forward with a new walk!

Join our free walking group at Dr Rasib & Partners GP Suite, Level 2, Cannock WS11 5XY.

The first walk starts on **Thursday 5th October 2017 at 11am.**

If you are just starting to become active this is for you.....a gentle, slow paced walk. It is also a great opportunity to meet new people and make friends.

Staff from the surgery and Age UK South Staffordshire will be ready to greet you.

More information from Sue, Amanda or Jane on **01785 788 472**



Boccia Boost in Stoke-on-Trent



We are delighted to announce that Age UK North Staffordshire has been funded by the English Federation of Disability Sport to deliver the 'GOGA Boccia Boost' project across the city.

This 2-year project is part of the exciting new Get Out Get Active (GOGA) programme in the city that supports disabled and non-disabled people to enjoy being active together. Funded by Spirit of 2012, all GOGA partners are focused on getting some of the least active people moving more through fun and inclusive activities.

Boccia is an increasingly popular disability-friendly sport that tests muscle control and accuracy, and is played indoors. Players, individually or in teams, propel balls to land close to a target ball, so it's similar in some ways to bowls or the French game petanque.

Our public launch is set for 5th October in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent; and a schedule of demonstration and taster sessions around the city is now being developed. We'll also be looking for volunteers to help us organise and lead some of these sessions.

If you would like more details about this project, please contact John Larkham on 01782 200721 or john.larkham@ageuknorthstaffs.org.uk

**Contact The Children Matter Team at Age UK South Staffordshire: Tel: 01785 788 484
The Roller Mill, Teddesley Road, Penkridge, STAFFORD. ST19 5BD.**

**Contact The Children Matter Team at Age UK North Staffordshire: Tel: 01782 286 209
83-85 Trinity Street, Hanley. STOKE ON TRENT. ST1 5NA**

National Age UK Website: www.ageuk.org.uk