

Children Matter News Bulletin



Issue No.7

January 2019

Happy New Year 2019

We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed your New Year celebrations.

The Team had a very busy Autumn Term, planning Christmas activities and investigating our options for the future of the project. As you know the current funding is due to finish at the end of August 2019. To date we have recruited over 155 volunteers and engaged with over 105 schools since 2016. The project has been so successful and we have far exceeded the targets set for the project. As the end of the current project is fast approaching, we have submitted a Stage One idea to the Lottery asking for funding to continue and build on the successes of our current project. We are really optimistic and hope to have more news shortly as to whether we have been successful in progressing our application to Stage Two.



New year.....New Staff.....



Hello, my name is Wendy Brammer I joined Age UK Staffordshire in December 2018 as Service Manager covering North Staffordshire. I am a Social Worker by training and have a wide range of experience having worked within social care and health for 25 years in a variety of front line and managerial roles.

I am really impressed by the positive intergenerational work that the Children Matter staff and volunteers have achieved so far and am very much looking forward to seeing how the service can progress further.

Hello my name is Wendy Lubacz, after a three year holiday I joined the team at Age UK Staffordshire on 8th January 2019 as a Project Support Worker with the Children Matter Project. In my previous role I was the Manager of Stoke on Trent Gingerbread Teenage Parent Project and The Safeguarding Manager for Gingerbread. I am thrilled to be joining the team and very enthusiastic to be part of such a successful project.



We have had a "wonderfulness of Wendy's" joining our organisation - meet another on our back page.....

Let it snow..... In case we get some seasonal weather still this winter, please be aware of your school's bad weather closure procedures. They may not be able to ring you, so the list of closures are on the Staffordshire County & Stoke on Trent City Council websites (links below) school website or listen to your local radio station for updates

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/schoolsandcolleges/emergencyclosures/schoolclosurelist/schoolclosurelist.aspx>

<http://webapps.stoke.gov.uk/schoolclosures/Default.aspx>

Children Matter - Learning Together SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE

A Festive Sing a long: Our Children Matter volunteers in the south of the county joined volunteers from Positive Steps and Helpline at a Christmas Celebration held at Chasetown Football Club on Thursday 13th December. Thanks to volunteer, Pat, we were entertained by Cheslyn Hay Community Choir who performed a number of festive favourites. Thanks also to the local businesses and Age UK Staff who donated items for the free raffle



Cheslyn Hay Community Choir



Nadiya really enjoyed meeting Jack and his daughter

Celebrating success!

The CMLT team were recently nominated for an award in the 'Volunteering Support for young people by a team or individual' category at the South Staffordshire Volunteer Star Awards held at South Staffs Council Offices in December. We didn't win but were honoured to attend the ceremony with some of our volunteers from the district.



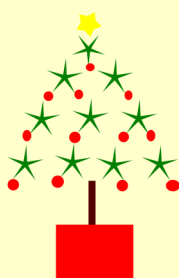
Volunteer, Christine Sproson who helps out at a school in Coven, also volunteers as a Community Connector and for a local National Trust Estate. Christine received a special certificate recognising her contribution to the community.

In other news, our 95 year young volunteer, Jack Neville, featured on a BBC2 programme, 'Nadiya's Party Feasts', shown in December. Filmed on location at Littleton Green Community School in Huntington, Cannock the show was a celebration of volunteering in school and Jack was a superstar!



Children Matter - Learning Together NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

Our Children Matter Volunteers in the north of the County enjoyed a Christmas celebration at Bentilee Neighbourhood Centre on 12th December. They were joined by staff and volunteers from the Ageing Well, social Activities Groups and the ladies from the shop in Longton. A huge thank you to volunteers from Vodafone who helped with the event. They organised refreshments, prepared and hosted the quiz, provided raffle prizes and led the Christmas sing a long in the North!



Thanks to the Vodafone Volunteers

A Change to our Steering Group Committee Meetings:

Our Steering Group Committee is made up of a group of dedicated volunteers, school staff and project partners. Their input has been invaluable to inform our future bids. For the final two meetings in 2019 we would like to invite as many of you as possible to get involved and come along. We will be using the meetings to gather more feedback but also as one of our community consultation events. Watch out for an email or letter soon with dates and venues.

Training update: We have just three sessions left of the **Supporting Struggling Readers Training** run by our friends at Entrust. All sessions run 9.30-1pm (lunch is not included). Places are limited for the March session but if you would like to attend then please get in touch:

Tuesday 12th March 2019: Entrust HQ, The Riverway Centre, Riverway, Stafford, ST17 3TH.

Wednesday 10th April 2019: Rose Price Meeting Room, Dudson Centre, Hope St, Hanley, ST1 5DD.

Thursday 6th June 2019: Meadow Room, The Roller Mill, Teddesley Road, Penkridge, ST19 5BD.

Safeguarding:

From March onwards we will be offering free face to face Child Safeguarding Awareness training sessions. If you would like more information then please contact Helen on 01782 200732.

In other news....



Our Services: Since the merger in October, we are able to offer lots more activities and services than we did before as individual Age UK Brand partners:

Information and advice Talk to us about social care, your home, benefits etc. Call your nearest information and advice team.

South: 01785 788499 North: 01782 200730 East: 01283 240392.

Day Opportunities Activities and support for various complex needs, including dementia and physical disabilities. Centres in Penkridge, Cannock, Lichfield, Tamworth and Wombourne **01785 788471.**

Care & Help at Home A range of great value services to help older people enjoy living independently in their own home. Call your nearest Help at Home team.

South: 01785 788477 North: 01782 827923 East: 01283 531614.

Befriending in East Staffordshire

We provide companionship by visiting lonely older people or through regular phone calls. **01283 510106.**

Care Navigation Helping older people to stay healthy and safe by working with local health & care professionals. Specific eligibility criteria and areas of South and East Staffordshire only **01785 788498.**

Working with Local GPs in North Staffordshire Our specialist staff work with a number of local GPs to support older patients with non-clinical needs in North Staffordshire only. **01782 200721.**

Exercise classes in Staffordshire Chair-based exercise classes run by Positive Steps in local venues, such as community centres, sheltered accommodation and church halls. **01785 788472.**

Group walks in Staffordshire Positive Steps run a variety of free group walks, encouraging people in Staffordshire of all ages to live a healthy, active lifestyle. **01785 788472**

Social activities in Stoke on Trent From knitting to computer classes, see what exciting local groups you could get involved in. **01782 286209**

Boccia in Stoke on Trent A fun, target sport, precision ball game, similar to boules. Players are seated and the game is suitable for all abilities. **01782 200739.**

Ageing Well in Stoke on Trent Join in our range of activities in Stoke on Trent to help prevent falls by improving your strength and balance, and improve confidence. **01782 200739**

Move it or Lose it! in Burton on Trent Fun & gentle chair-based exercise classes for over 50s in Burton on Trent, followed by refreshments. For more information contact **01283 510106.**

Lunch Club in Burton on Trent

Great food and great company at our Lunch Club for over 50s in Burton on Trent. For availability and prices **01283 510106.**



Longton Charity Shop

Whether you're having a clear out or after a bargain, the money we raise at our Longton Charity Shop helps us to continue supporting local older people.

Our Longton charity shop is located at 59 The Strand, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 2NS. Open Monday to Saturday 9am to 4pm. **01782 598373.**



Introducing our new Head of Operations:

Hello, my name is Wendy Botham. I joined Age UK Staffordshire in November 2018 as Head of Operations and I am based at The Roller Mill but work with all of Age UK Staffordshire services. My previous employment was with Stoke on Trent City Council in both Law and Administration and Social Services Departments, but for the last 15 years I was the Business Manager for an infants' school in Stoke on Trent. I know just how important volunteers are to schools and I am very impressed by the positive work of the team and volunteers involved



**Contact The Children Matter Team at Age UK Staffordshire South : Tel: 01785 788484
The Roller Mill, Teddesley Road, Penkridge, STAFFORD. ST19 5BD.**

**Contact The Children Matter Team at Age UK Staffordshire North: Tel: 01782 200732
The Dudson Centre, Hope Street, Hanley. STOKE ON TRENT. ST1 5DD**

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