SCVYS

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY YOUTH SERVICES

Meeting Title	SCVYS AGM
Date & Time	Thursday 20th November 2025, 7.00pm
Location	Rising Brook Baptist Church, Burton Square, Stafford, ST17 9LT
Chair	Jeremy Cotton – Beaudesert, Scouting Staffordshire

Present	Lisa Bone	Vice Chair, Re-Solv
	Alexander Wood	Treasurer, Tean Youth Club, Gaming Potion
	Stephen Hopkins	Trustee
	Alana Wheat	Trustee, Tean Youth Club, Gaming Potion
	Caroline Simmons	Trustee
	Tom Craddock	Apprentice Trustee
	Oliver Bracebridge Henderson	Apprentice Trustee
	Cllr Paul Williams	Staffordshire County Council Chairman
	Timothy Gillow	High Sheriff of Staffordshire
	Ryan Fox	University of Staffordshire
	Ian Atherton	Staffs Clubs for Young People
	Amelia Barrett	Dosthill Boys Club
	Joseph Barrett	Dosthill Boys Club
	Matilda Barrett	Dosthill Boys Club
	Joseph Barrett	Dosthill Boys Club
	Stanley Barrett	Dosthill Boys Club
	Simon Birkdale	Chill Out Clubs
	Brian Hodgkins	Chill Out Clubs
	Caroline Barrow	SPARK
	Lertkanlaya Clarke	SPARK
	Elaine Micklewright	SPARK
	Caroline Barrow	SPARK
	Esther Allen	SPARK
	Sylvia Coleman	Girlguiding Uttoxeter
	Jennifer Simmonds	Girlguiding Uttoxeter
	Helen Smythman	Tean Youth Club
	Gerald Crooks	Tean Youth Club
	Denise Wheat	Tean Youth Club

In Attendance	William Ackerman	Tean Youth Club
	Emma Cox	West Chadsmoor Family Centre
	Angela Staples	West Chadsmoor Family Centre
	Emma Cox	West Chadsmoor Family Centre
	Heather Preece	West Chadsmoor Family Centre
	Wendy Teece	Burton Hope
	Rachel Anderson	Burton Hope
	John Anderson	Burton Hope
	Rachel Oliver	Burton Hope
	Wilbur Oliver	Burton Hope
	Nia Wearn	NAS
	Maggie Huckfield	Liberty Jamboree
	Natalie Ainsworth	Girlguiding Staffordshire
	Roy Burton	Burton Albion Community Trust
	Kayla Coetzee	5th Stafford Boys Brigade
	Nathan Pointon	Stafford Brigades Marching Band
	Kevin Ford	North Staffs Boys Brigade
	Karen Wardell	Rising Brook Church
	Phil Pusey	SCVYS Chief Executive Officer
	Debbie Mason	SCVYS Operations Manager & Company Secretary
	Claire John	SCVYS Development Team Leader
	Jane Reynolds	SCVYS Development Worker
	Rhiannon Hemming	SCVYS Development Worker
	Natalie McGrath	SCVYS PSHE Coordinator
	Ellie Chesterton	SCVYS PSHE Coordinator
	Rhia Walker Smith	SCVYS KYP Engagement Worker
	Cathryn Rayner	SCVYS Service Impact & Youth Engagement Manager
	Gracie Dean	Know Your Place YPSG
	George Ellis	Know Your Place YPSG
	Matty Hart Sanderson	Know Your Place YPSG
	Matt Hart Sanderson	Parent of Young Person
Apologies	Grace Lee	Know Your Place YPSG
	Julie Tanner	Girlguiding Staffordshire
	TeeJay Dowe	Trustee and Spark to Your Success
	Keith Walker	Vice President
	Bernie Brown	SCC DCS
	Nic Gratton	Know Your Place

	Cllr Martin Murray	SCC Deputy Leader
	Declan Kinney	SCC
	Steven Griggs	University of Staffordshire
	Sue Garb	Burton Youth for Christ
	Kent Parson	Erasmus Darwin House
	Ruth Myers	Riverside Church
	Kirsty Lewis	Trans Staffordshire
	Victor Thys	SCVYS President
	Nicola Edmonds	Staffordshire Women's Aid

Item	Discussions/Agreements	Actions
1	**Welcome, Apologies & Housekeeping** Jeremy Cotton welcomed everyone to the meeting. Jeremy gave special welcomes to SCC Chairman Paul Williams and the High Sheriff Timothy Gillow. Jeremy said the apologies would not be read out but would be noted in the minutes.	
2	**Minutes of previous meeting 14th November 2024** All minutes were reviewed with no matters arising or changes required. Lisa Bone proposed acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Alexander Wood and this was **Agreed Unanimously**	
3	**Presentation of Accounts by SCVYS Treasurer Alexander Wood** Alexander explained that the financial statements are created in line with our accounting policies and comply with the charities governing document, the charities act 2011 and companies act 2006 and SORP and FRS102 effective 1st January 2019. The trustees consider the accounts to be highly satisfactory in the current climate and overall, a small profit of £3207, £2964 of that is from investments. We awarded £1200 in start up and crisis grants. Alexander said SCVYS are grateful for the support of trustees who give their time freely in support of the charity and without which the charity would not function. SCVYS have benefitted from 1967.5 volunteer hours with an estimated value of £35,513 to the charity. Alana Wheat proposed acceptance of the accounts for 2024 -2025, seconded by Steve Hopkins and agreed unanimously.	
4	**Appointment of Independent Inspector of Accounts** Alexander proposed Adele Lawton of Lawton Bradford as Independent Inspector of accounts for the financial year 2025-2026, seconded by Caroline Simmons and agreed unanimously.	
5	**Retirement/Appointment of Trustees** Phil said that SCVYS trustees are elected for a 3 year term of office and can serve a maximum of 3 terms. He said that Jeremy Cotton and Caroline Simmons were stepping down this year and TeeJay Dowe is due to retire by rotation and has agreed to be re-elected for a second term. Alexander proposed TeeJay's re-election seconded by Alana and unanimously agreed. Phil passed the meeting to Lisa to give thanks to the retiring trustees. Lisa said that Jeremy and Cal had been fantastic trustees and thanked them for their contribution and for supporting the work of the charity and its member organisation over the past 8 years. Phil added that SCVYS is in are in a period of trustee recruitment and asked anyone who was interested to speak to one of the team.	

	Jeremy said it had been an honour to serve as SCVYS Chair and thanked SCC for supporting the core work and said that SCVYS wouldn't exist without it. He said the support SCC provide is a very good way of delivering support for youth services across the county. Jeremy said the core work delivered by the Development Workers supports over 200 organisations across the county. 50,000 children and young people accessed positive activities in the last year and £8 million of funding has been secured by the organisations represented in the room to help them in their delivery. He said the work is delivered by more than 10,000 volunteers around the county and highlighted the other work areas: • War Graves Friendship Camp • Staffordshire Youth Union and Youth Parliament • Coproduction and Wham Plan • Know Your Plance • VR Project • PSHE Education Service • Input into national and local organisations Jeremy thanked the staff and trustee teams for doing an amazing job. Jeremy said thank you to Lisa for agreeing to take on the role of Chair. He said she had been a trustee with SCVYS since 2019 and works for Re-Solv one of SCVYS members that supports individuals with substance misuse.	
6	**Annual Review** Phil said he would offer a few thoughts about how SCVYS is doing against its vision '*A county where all children and young people thrive and their value and contribution are recognised*' and look forward to some of the challenges and opportunities ahead. He said SCVYS role is to support the local children and young people's voluntary sector to be as safe, strong and sustainable as possible and in addition to that we have work areas around young people's voice, allowing them to influence policy makers and we also host the PSHE Education Service who support 550 formal education settings. He said 52% of young people aged 9-17 report having good mental health which means that 48% maybe don't and 48% think they will have a better life than their parents which means that 52% maybe don't. Phil explained that he thinks there are four key support mechanisms that all children and young people need to give them enough security, stability and connection and make it positively through to adult life. **Somewhere safe to go –** SCVYS members provide over 900 safe spaces weekly **Something positive and exciting to do –** Over 68,000 children and young people access activities provided by SCVYS members **Somebody trusted to talk with –** this year has seen a dip in volunteer figures below 10,000 with people moving from regular to occasional volunteering **Giving young people roles and responsibilities –** Opportunity to contribute helps with ownership, belonging and the sense of making a difference **Challenges ahead:** • Securing SCVYS core contract with SCC which is due for renewal in July 2026 • Updating our 3-year strategic plan • PSHE team responding to support education settings with huge changes to statutory guidance around relationships, sex and health education which schools must have in place by next September. • Increasing the strength and diversity of local youth voice • Adapting to the local government review	

	• Maximising opportunities for the sector coming down from national government such as Families First and National Youth Strategy. Phil thanked the SCVYS team who for 5 or 6 years have been in survival mode with generating income and flexing to new and different demands and then this year coping with growth, new projects, programmes and opportunities and the new team members who have joined in the last year. SCVYS Trustees support has been amazing, and we welcome representation from other members to that board. He thanked our important partners and funders SCC, OPFCC, ICB and University of Staffordshire and the members present and the young people of Staffordshire who are the reason we do what we do and said that investing in young people values them and their contribution and gives them a place to thrive in Staffordshire.	
7	**Questions** There were no questions	
8	**Know Your Place** Cathryn introduced SCVYS latest engagement project 'Know Your Place' which is a young people's community research project which SCVYS is delivering in partnership with SCC and University of Staffordshire. The aim of the project is to make Staffordshire a county where young people are connected to and inspired by the changes that research can make for an more equal, safe and sustainable future and described how SCVYS is doing that and invited involvement as Innovator Organisation from the members assembled and presented a video representation of year 1 of the project. Cathryn said that the young people's steering group and Know Youth Place team members were present and available to tell members more about the project.	
9	**Les Simmons Awards** Phil introduced the awards and nominees in each category were invited to the stage to receive a certificate from the High Sheriff and Caroline Simmons. The winners were announced and presented with their awards: Youth Impact (for volunteers under 18) – Kayla Coetzee (5th Stafford Boys Brigade and Girls Association) Adult Impact (for volunteers over 18) – Daniel Dean (DBC Club for Young People) Group Impact (for any SCVYS member organisation) – Burton Hope Special Recognition Award Adult – Heather Preece (West Chadsmoor Family Centre) Special Recognition Award Young Person – Thomas Craddock	
10	**Vote of Thanks** Phil invited Paul Williams to the stage who said it was a great honour to be appointed Chairman of Staffordshire County Council and in his role had met so many people involved in voluntary and charitable organisations who care for both the young and the old and support our communities in countless situations. He has been made aware that our civic society would struggle to function without the dedication, compassion and hard work of people like those assembled whose commitment is the backbone of our community and on behalf of the people of Staffordshire wanted to express sincere thanks and admiration for everything they do. He said he visited the War Graves Camp this year and was impressed by the maturity and enthusiasm of the young people involved and saw young people engaging thoughtfully with history and showing true compassion, listening respectfully and intently to the veterans and conversed with them. He said he was inspired by the friendships that were formed so naturally and whether learning, working or simply having fun they showed how understanding and reconciliation begins. The project is a powerful reminder of what young people can achieve	

	when given the opportunity, honouring the past while building a more hopeful future and they are the reason this partnership continues to thrive. Lisa thanked everyone for coming to such an inspiring evening and learning about the amazing work members are doing across the county. She wanted to everyone to recognise that SCVYS is unique if you look across the country and that it should be championed in Staffordshire. She and highlighted SCVYS and its members and the fantastic work they do, adding such massive cost effective value across the county and emphasing the thousands of free hours of voluntary work given. Lisa thanked Paul Williams and Tim Gillow for attending and gave thanks to Jeremy and Cal and the staff, trustees and all the members who make everything happen across the county.	
11	**Networking and light refreshments**	