

Volunteer  
Newsletter  
number eight  
September 2017



# Children and Families Staffordshire

putting children first

## Introductions



We have now appointed our Deputy Senior Officer, Natalie Ornelas.

Natalie started on September 11th and has been very busy learning the ropes and meeting families and volunteers. Natalie has worked in family support in a previous role, so has a really good understanding of what we do and how we do it; as well as being a mum herself to 3 children, so has the lived experience we all value in this organisation.

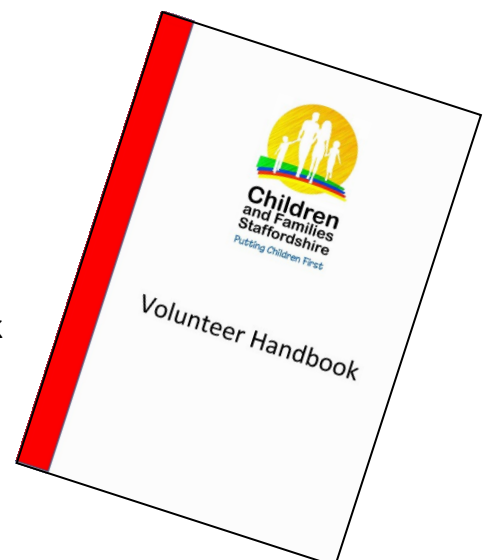
Some of you met Natalie at the last volunteers meeting and she will be attending future meetings so hopefully you will all get the chance to meet her. Natalie will be taking over much of Chris's role from January 2018 and then a complete handover by end of March 2018.

## Volunteer Handbook

Hopefully you will all have received the new Volunteers Handbook by now. Please let us know if you haven't.

The Handbook has been produced for you in line with the new Quality Award that we are hoping to achieve. This comes from the Mentoring and Befriending Network and focuses on the quality of the relationships between the volunteers and the families you support.

We will be submitting our self assessment very soon, and then we will be visited by an assessor who will want to talk with you, so hopefully some of you will volunteer to take part in this. At the next volunteers meeting we will be looking at some of the areas that the assessor will be looking at – we hope you will be able to attend.



## Volunteers' Group Meetings

The next meeting will be on Thursday 5th October at 10am – as mentioned we will be looking at areas of the Quality Assurance assessment.

At the following volunteers meeting on Thursday 2nd November the Staffordshire Women's Aid will be attending to provide training on Awareness of Domestic Abuse and the effects on women and children. Please make a note of this date and hopefully you'll be able to attend.

The next meeting then will be December 7th – we will be celebrating the run up to Christmas and are hoping to have a more social occasion - more details later.



## Volunteers' Individual Review Meetings

You will all be receiving an appointment soon for a review meeting. This is your chance to discuss your experiences of being a volunteer, any issues you may feel have cropped up for you, ask any questions and generally give us your feedback.

Chris and Natalie are very much looking forward to seeing you all.

## Fundraising Events

On Friday 6th October Balance and Beam, a venue where we take children on the Aiming High Project, are holding a Ladies Evening on our behalf. Balance and Beam are located on the Festival Park next door to Waterworld.

The event takes place from 7pm, admission is free. A company called SOS will be selling a range of women's clothes and accessories and we will be holding a raffle with some great prizes. Please feel free to invite any other ladies you know who also love to shop. We hope to see you there.

The KDK Dance Studio in Stoke are also holding a fund raising event for us in mid November - date to be confirmed. This will be a Tamla Motown and Soul night. More information about this will be available later.



We have some great  
raffle prizes:

Port Vale FC – 2017/18 Season - 1 adult - 1 juvenile

Trentham Monkey Forest - 2 tickets

Just Kidding Play Centre - 2 tickets

Gladstone Pottery Museum - 2 adults

West Midlands Safari Park - 2 people

Emma Bridgewater Factory Tour & Refreshments – 4 people

Balance and Beam Party voucher

Tesco - £10 voucher

New Vic theatre tickets x 2

bottle red wine

bottle white wine

hydrofoil mini drone

## Children and Families Staffordshire Annual General Meeting

Our AGM takes place on Thursday 16th November at the Community Fire Station in Hanley from 12.15pm until 2.15pm. A lunch will be provided. The theme is a celebration of how far we have come in the 2 short years we have been operating and also our thoughts for the future.

We are really pleased that one of the mums, Kerry Foster, supported by Home-Start, Aiming High and then CAFS will be our guest speaker. She has written her very inspiring autobiography, documenting the trials and troubles of her childhood and early adult life, her experiences of being a mum of 2 children, one of whom has additional needs, and will recall the help and support she had along the way. Kerry is hoping to inspire other mothers to achieve and to highlight the stigma around mental health.

Please make a note of the date - you will receive an invitation to our AGM very soon.



## New Volunteers Recruitment and Training



You will all know that in the last 2 years recruiting volunteers has been extremely difficult. Those attending new courses recently know that there have only been 3 or 4 people on the courses. We have 3 people on our next course starting 2nd October. This was delayed due to having had no response to our initial advertisements and publicity.

We know that there are many demands on people these days, people are working longer, grandparents are providing childcare, the pressure on parents to return to work are very demanding, and volunteering isn't seen by the Job Centre as contributing to actively looking for work.

If you know anyone who would make a great volunteer, or who may be interested in volunteering, then please let them know about the course. We are also trying to put our heads together to think about how we can be more successful in recruiting new volunteers, so if you have any ideas, please let us know.

## Keele Volunteering Fair—Wednesday 11th October, 10am—4pm

We shall be holding a stall at this event in order to interest students into volunteering for our Aiming High Project—helping children with additional needs to have a fun time at our activities around the City.

If anyone would be available to volunteer an hour or two to help out on the stall then you would be most welcome. Telephone Eileen or Teresa on 01782 863762.