

Tamworth Voluntary and Community Sector Forum

Terms of Reference

Context

SCIO (Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent Consortium of Infrastructure Organisations) is a consortium of 13 voluntary and community sector (VCS) infrastructure organisations that has come together to ensure an effective and influential VCS in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent by providing a range of high quality support services. SCIO's Staffordshire 3rd Sector Network (S3SN) provides a focus for dialogue between the VCS and public sector organisations at county level, to maximise opportunities for the VCS to influence public policy, and engage in the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and delivering services for communities in Staffordshire.

Networks or forums in the individual districts/boroughs form part of the entire countywide network which is supported by the countywide "Communities Together" website, allowing the VCS to both receive feedback from and contribute to the network.

Tamworth Voluntary and Community Sector Forum aims to:

- Bring together voluntary and community groups from across the Tamworth to share information, experience, skills and good practice.
- Provide opportunities for the sector to help shape planning and policy decisions.
- Ensure the views, knowledge, contribution and aspirations of the sector are fully communicated to our statutory partners.
- Ensure the sector is able to maximise the opportunities in service delivery across all LAA blocks in line with national, regional and local policy initiatives.
- Provide the principal channel of communication between the voluntary and community sector and the statutory sector in Tamworth.

These aims will be achieved by:

- Encouraging membership from the widest possible range of voluntary and community organisations.

- Providing an environment that encourages innovation, the sharing of best practice and enhances the opportunities for partnership working.
- Providing the opportunity for the sector to respond in a co-ordinated way to any consultations, issues, plans and policies that arise that would affect the sector.
- Keeping abreast of political, economic, social and legal developments which may have an impact on the work of the voluntary and community sector and disseminating this information as widely as possible.
- Inviting appropriate representatives from partner organisations, who will help to promote and advance the aims of the forum, to attend meetings from time to time.
- Electing, nominating or delegating, from the membership of the forum, representatives onto local partnerships and other boards as required.
- Providing an accountability mechanism for these elected forum representatives to report back to and consult with the network.

Membership

Tamworth Voluntary and Community Sector Forum is open to all voluntary and community organisations that are based in or work in Tamworth.

Organisations will be expected to keep the supporting body up to date with contact details and to agree for these to be held on the database.

Attendance at meetings will not be a condition of membership as it is recognised that this is not always possible and that other communication channels are available through which a contribution can be made.

Meetings

Meetings will be organised by Tamworth CVS and it is anticipated that the forum will meet four times per year. Additional meetings may be called to consider any urgent agenda items should they arise.