



INVESTING IN
COMMUNITIES

VAST Services (1920)

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31st March 2015

MONDAY



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COMPANIES HOUSE



NAVCA
Quality
Award



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

Silver



Contents

1. Trustees Directors, Principal Officers & Advisors	3
2. Chair’s Foreword	4
3. Chief Executives Overview	6
4. Our Values	7
5. Objective 1: Enhance and improve the sustainability of VAST	8
6. Objective 2: Provide high quality services	9
7. Objective 3: Support the Development of a vibrant & thriving local Civil Society	18
8. Objective 4: Represent CSO’s interests and advocate on their behalf	20
9. Objective 5: Support Public Sector & Civil Society Engagement	21
10. Performance Report	24
11. Trustees	27
12. Governance	28
13. Financial Report	30
14. The Future	32
15. Financial statements	33



1. Trustees Directors, Principal Officers & Advisors

VAST is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association, which were last amended in 2006.

Company No. 2000818

Charity No. 1049663

Trustees

The trustees presently serving are:

Neil Dawson - Chair

Mark Barnish - Treasurer

John Beech

John Webbe

Sophia Baker

Chris Lawley

Peter Twilley

David Holton

Tim Edwards

Dawn Wickham (appointed December 2014)

Jeanette Sword (appointed July 2015)

Susan Meredith (appointed July 2015)

Served during the year

Yvonne Jeffries DL CBE (resigned December 2014)

David Mathews (Resigned July 2015)

Liz Watson (Resigned December 2014)

Helen Russell (Resigned August 2015)

Auditors

Dains LLP, Suite 2 Albion House,
2 Etruria Office Village, Forge Lane,
Etruria, Stoke on Trent, ST1 5RQ

Bankers

Unity Bank Plc, Nine Brindleyplace,
Birmingham B1 2HB

Investment Managers

Brewin Dolphin, The Avenue, Spinningfields Square,
Manchester, M3 3AP

Company Secretary

Kerry Shea (to Sept 2014)

Sajid Hashmi (from Sept 2014)

Principal Officers

Sajid Hashmi MBE - Chief Executive

Andrew Thompson - Assistant Chief Executive

Lisa Healings FCCA - Head of Finance

Peter Chell - Head of Health Services

Alison Kirk - Head of Marketing & Business
Development

Sarah Carrington - Head of Partnership &
Engagement

Registered Office

Dudson Centre, Hope Street, Hanley, Stoke on Trent
ST1 5DD

Head Office

The Hub, 17 Eastgate Street, Stafford, ST16 2LZ

District Office

12 Merrial Street, Newcastle under Lyme, ST5 2AD

VAST is the trading name of VAST Services (1920)

2. Chair's Foreword

Over the past year, the challenges faced by the VCS have been on a huge scale with grants non-existent and other sources of income diminishing.

So it is a matter of great pride to the trustees, and a tribute to the dedication and professionalism of the team at VAST, that this report is a tale of significant achievement. I am pleased to report that our annual survey demonstrates a high level of satisfaction with over 88% of you rating the service you get from VAST as excellent or good. This is critical for us as VAST is committed to excellence at all levels, and we take pride in our work. This is all the more remarkable as the demand at a local level and expectations of our services are at unprecedented levels, as our members struggle for funding and survival.

VAST is committed to working constructively with all our statutory, private and VCS partners across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent. We believe that by doing so and by helping the public sector meet its obligations with ever decreasing resources we can ensure the best for the local communities whom we all endeavour to serve.

The trustees recognised the need to provide additional support to our sector and to this end we have invested almost half a million pounds from reserves in setting up and developing the Hub in Stafford as a VCS resource centre. This now mirrors our flagship Dudson Centre, the VCS resource centre in Stoke, in providing affordable managed office space in Stafford. This not only demonstrates our commitment to supporting the VCS but also ensures VAST is truly a Staffordshire wide organisation.

Our professional business services provide the local VCS with high quality support that generates income for VAST and enables local groups to save money with charges that are typically 40% less than commercial providers charge. In addition we also provide support and advice alongside our work for no extra cost. The trustees have also set up a bursary fund for local VCS groups who need these services but cannot afford to pay.

In coming years we have a huge task in meeting the expectations of the VCS and the public sector with diminishing resources whilst not letting up on our high standards and simultaneously planning for a future which will inevitably see significant changes in the way the VCS operates.

We have trialled projects which we will develop for the future and the VCS is firmly at the heart of all our planning. Our aim remains to enable our partners from all sectors, including the private sector, to work better together for the benefit of local communities.

That greater responsiveness lies at the heart of our strategy for the future. Meanwhile, we face the coming years with optimism: unwavering in our values and confident in our staff and trustees to meet the formidable challenges ahead.

Successful organisations inevitably have strong leaders, whether an individual or the board of trustees. Trustees generally have a passion for local issues and a clear vision of what is needed. They are compassionate and understand local issues, but they need to be aware of the commercial environment and understand the need to generate surpluses to be sustainable. For this I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our trustees for having the vision and the foresight that enabled VAST to develop into such a dynamic social enterprise.

Finally I want to thank every single member of the VAST team who have really pulled out all the stops to ensure success at every level.

Thank you,

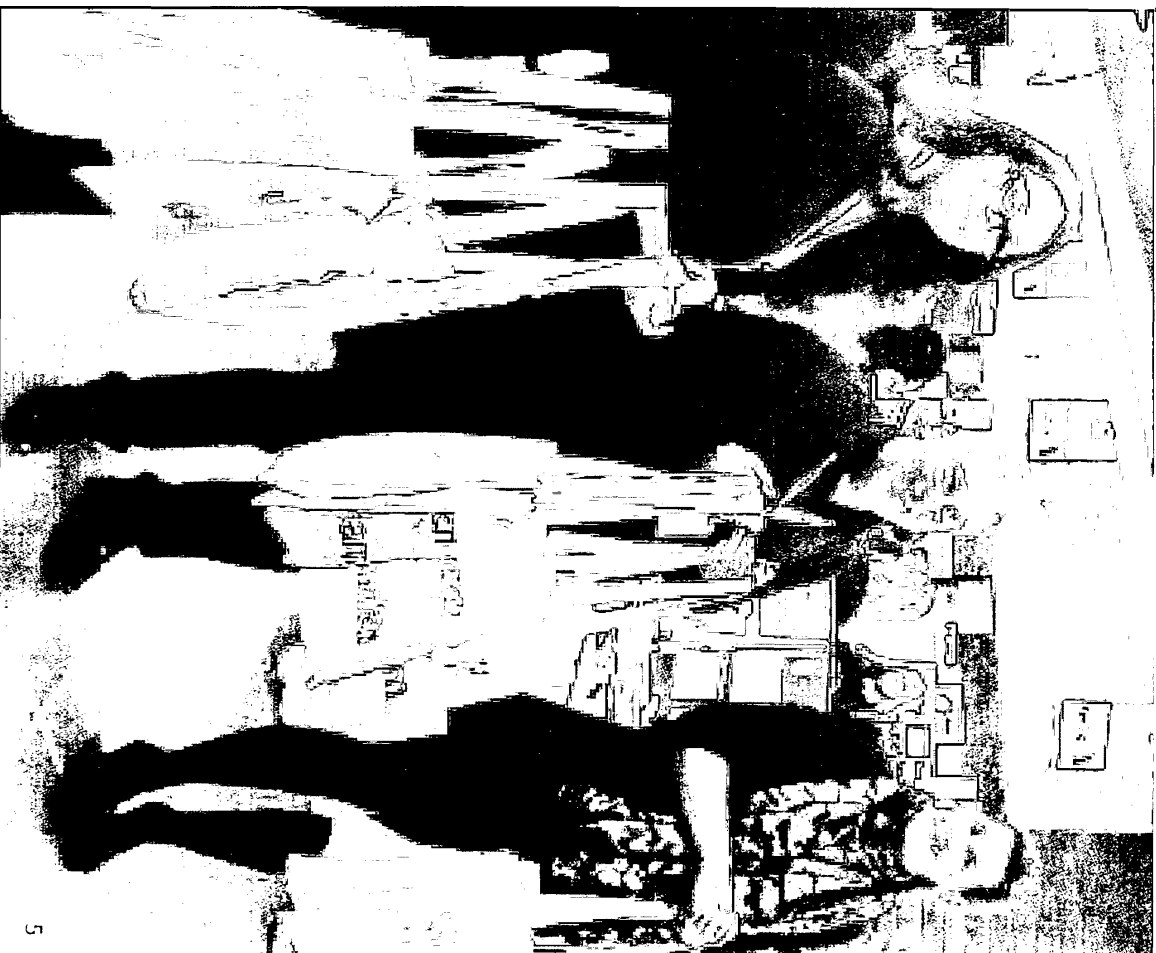
Neil Dawson

Neil Dawson

Chair

19 October 2015

**VAST is committed to working constructively
with all our statutory, private and VCS partners
across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent.**



3. Chief Executives Overview

I am particularly pleased that despite the difficult financial climate VAST have recorded another highly successful year in every respect.

We have seen an overall growth in all aspects of our operation. Having established an excellent countywide support and volunteering service we have continued to improve the quality of our provision recognised by Investors in People – Silver standard, improving on the bronze we had previously held.

The results and performance of the past year reflects the benefits of maintaining our ethos as a charity but operating in a businesslike manner. This has seen both quality improvements and service growth. Our sustainability has been further enhanced with the development of The Hub in Stafford.

Our operating strategy is to enhance the VCS. To this end we have been developing innovative solutions to help us provide ever-improving services in a competitive world.

Our One Staffordshire Lead Accountable Body model is a prime example of this. With tendering and contracting replacing grants, One Staffordshire firstly will enable smaller groups to be involved in tendering irrespective of their capacity, and secondly the public sector will benefit from local delivery and local intelligence.

The local VCS today is at the intersection of the new austerity world, as the public sector/NHS is losing its funding they need the innovation the VCS can provide to deliver services and support local communities. This cannot be done effectively through the big nationals. It needs the local VCS at the very heart of grass roots communities to be effective.

Our close relationship with the CCG's and local councils provides us with the ability to work with them in developing local solutions based on local need and demographics. VAST will endeavour to work with them in the accelerated evolution towards creating very different kinds of delivery mechanisms that are sustainable because they are bespoke.

One Staffordshire offers our resource centres – The Dudson Centre & The Hub and our portfolio of professional services, saving the VCS operating costs whilst maintaining professionalism and reflects our commitment to keeping up with ever changing demands.

I would also like to thank the trustee board, our senior executive team and staff for their dedication and commitment beyond the call of duty that has enabled VAST to be the leading provider of volunteering & support services in Staffordshire.

Thank you

Sajid Hashmi

Sajid Hashmi
Chief Executive
19 October 2015



4. Our Values

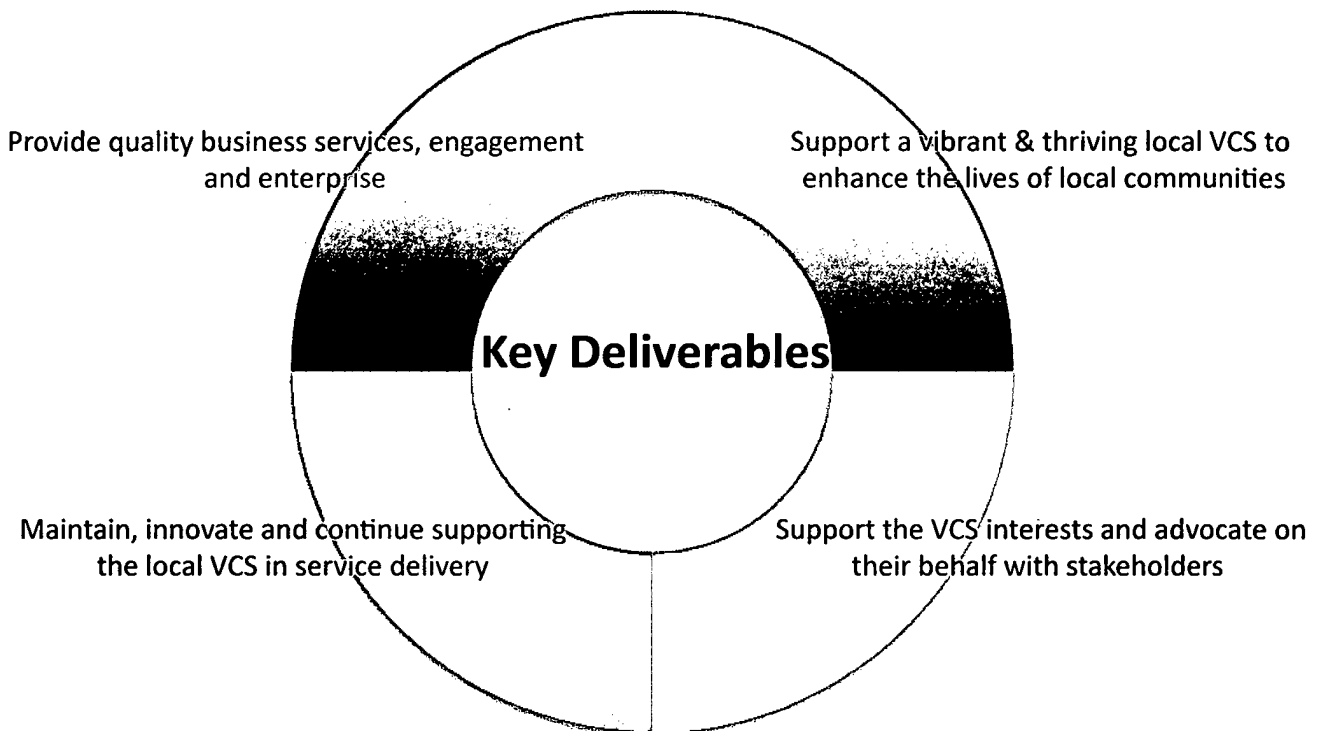
VAST is a social enterprise that specialises in providing Volunteering and Development support to the VCS in Staffordshire enabling them to deliver high quality services to local communities and civil society. VAST also promotes the VCS sector and advocates on their behalf at a strategic level with other stakeholders – a “One Stop Support Shop for VCS”.

Mission Statement

Develop a vibrant and thriving VCS to improve the quality of life of local residents.

Role

VAST assists the VCS with a wide range of professional development, volunteering & support initiatives and advocates on their behalf.



Objectives for the reporting period

Objective 1

Enhance and improve the sustainability of VAST

Objective 2

Provide high quality services

Objective 3

Support the Development of a vibrant & thriving local Civil Society

Objective 4

Represent CSO's interests and advocate on their behalf

Objective 5

Support Public Sector and Civil Society Engagement

5. Objective 1: Enhance and improve the sustainability of VAST

Business Services

Enhancing and improving the sustainability of VAST through selling of back office services to Voluntary organisations, Community groups, Social Enterprises and Registered Charities in Staffordshire (VCS) has a twofold advantage. Firstly it generates income for VAST thus reducing our grant dependency, secondly, and more importantly, it provides high quality services professionally delivered by qualified professionals. We ensure prices are affordable reflecting a groups' ability to pay. By outsourcing these services to VAST the local VCS can free up vital resources for front line services. Our services are extremely competitive compared to private sector organisations providing a similar service.

1.Finance & Accounts Services

Services include bookkeeping, annual accounts preparation, independent examinations, forecasting and payroll services to the VCS. The regulations affecting the VCS can seem complicated but our staff make this easy through support, mentoring & training whilst providing the service. We are specialists in our field and work with our clients to produce accounts that are relevant to their charity and tailored to their needs, providing guidance and explanations where required. Ensuring groups meet regulatory obligations and project the right image to donors and beneficiaries whilst keeping an eye on efficiency.

2.Databases

VAST has a qualified Database developer in-house providing bespoke CRM databases to the local VCS so that they can easily and effectively manage their database contacts. We provide ongoing mentoring and support for all of the CRM databases that we design and build.

Our databases enable VCS groups to easily and effectively monitor work, capture outcomes and demonstrate effectiveness through report tools that provide efficient and accurate data.

3.Graphic Design

Our comprehensive and highly professional graphic design service enables even the smallest VCS group to portray a professional image through a one stop shop for all marketing requirements including the design and production of business stationery, leaflets, brochures, newsletters, posters, manual reports, exhibition stands and much more.

4.Website Design

VAST designs and builds websites to individual budgets and requirements. We can build everything from a simple 1 page website to a complex CMS (Content Management System) that organisations edit and update themselves. We designed and built our very own website which will give you a flavour of some of the features available.

5.Printing & Print Sourcing

With over 20 years of Print Buying experience in our design department you can be assured of great quality and cost effective printing. We print: Flyers, Leaflets, Brochures, Letterheads, Business Cards, Compliments Slips, Pull-up Banners, PVC Vinyl Banners etc.

6.Marketing

Our professional marketing team provides assistance with the whole marketing process including marketing plans, helping to produce a marketing strategy and support to implement it. Areas of expertise include: Social Media, Direct Mail campaigns, Database design, build and management, PR, E-mail campaigns, Advertising, Search Engine Optimisation (SEO).

Last year over 300 VCS groups used one or more of the above services generating over £170,000 in sales income for VAST which was used to subsidise the fall in grants and ensured we maintained our essential services.

6. Objective 2: Provide high quality services

Quality Accreditations

1. PQASSO (Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisation)

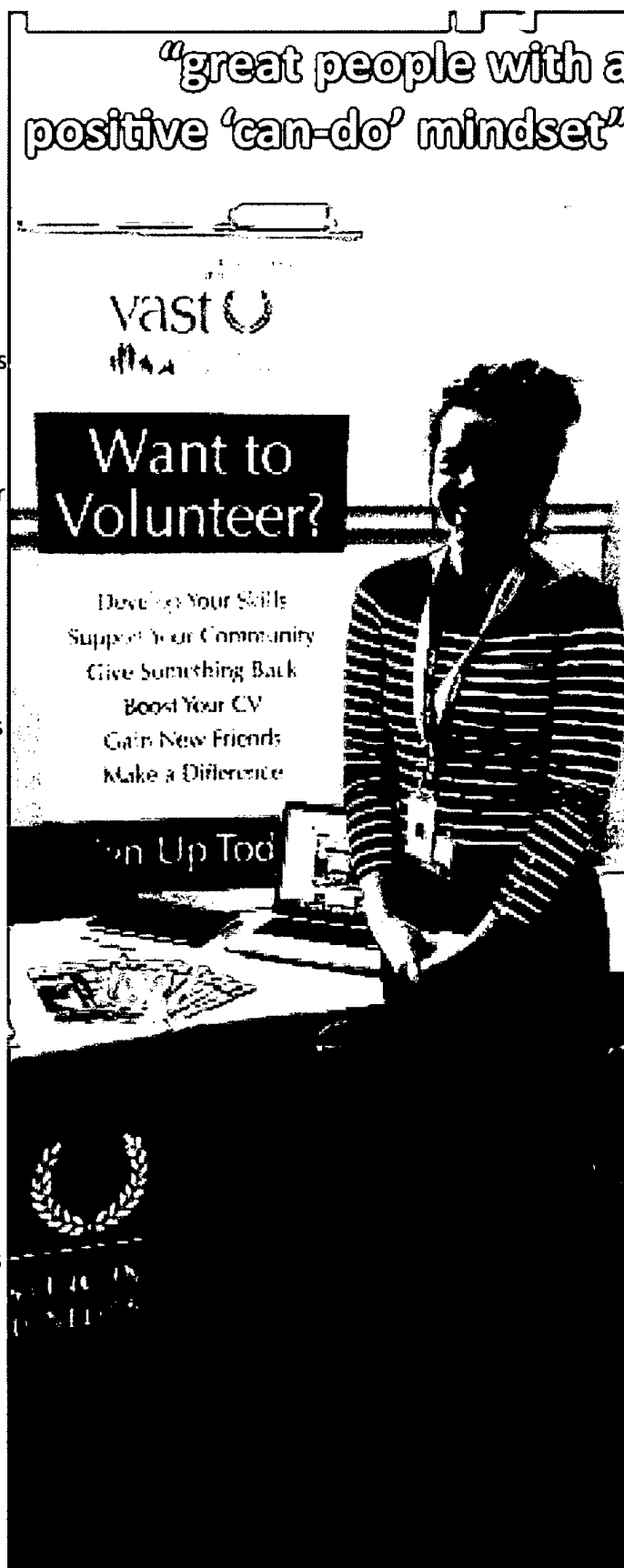
VAST are pleased to report that they have been reviewing all processes and procedures with regard to three areas of PQASSO and have achieved Level 3 in the following areas: Governance, Finance and Leadership and Management. This has enabled VAST to identify areas where we are doing well, and not so well, and decide exactly where improvements are needed. This will enable VAST to have more effective and efficient organisational systems and procedures with the benefit of providing better quality of service for our members as well as greater credibility and legitimacy with our funders. VAST will continue to monitor and evaluate the information gathered and recorded to ensure these three areas of PQASSO are kept up to date.

2. IIP (Investors in People)

VAST was successful in meeting all the requirements of the People (IIP) Standard at Silver Level, an improvement on last year's 'Bronze' achievement. The feedback we received was summed up with 'great people with a positive 'can-do' mindset that have created a friendly and conducive working environment'. Skill levels amongst staff was considered high and a skills audit to ensure existing capabilities and competences of its people was recommended and will be undertaken again in the coming months.

3. NAVCA Quality Award

VAST holds the NAVCA Quality Award using case studies of work within the voluntary sector in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent to show how the support we provide to a wide range of organisations is valued by them enabling organisations to grow in confidence as well as capacity. VAST are able to show how we gave the sector a voice with the organisation of consultations and information events enabling the sector to influence Local Authority Commissioner Agreements and Schemes.



Lifestyle Services

This year the service has seen an increase in the referrals from 2500 to 3162, which is the product of our building stronger partnerships and clearer referral pathways with GP's secondary care, Midwives, Cardiac Rehabilitation and the Bariatric teams.

We completed the first full year on our new CRM database, which has proved hugely time efficient for the coaches who have now moved from a paper based process to on-screen working during their consultations with clients. This has meant that the increase in referral numbers has been accommodated with little or no back log at peak times. The new database has also enabled our outcomes to be measured more directly and accurately.

We have been able to introduce a robust performance management system to ensure the entire team feel supported and to ensure maximum efficiency, this will enable any training gaps or mentoring needs to be highlighted easily. We also require the coaches to peer shadow a colleague twice a year as part of their development support.

The new CRM has helped improve our DNA rate which was 30% in the previous year. In the year 2014-2015 we have successfully achieved a DNA rate of 19% and therefore met the required rate of 20% as per our contract. This has been achieved by a more effective appointment booking system and the use of text reminders and prompts; also system generated appointment and missed appointment

letters. We have also introduced the option of telephone or SKYPE reviews at 3, 7 or 9 months to reduce the DNA rate for clients who have work or other commitments.

The rate of our "quota" and "non-quota" referrals has remained at approximately 50/50. Discussions have taken place with Commissioners to increase the "non-quota" and use the Lifestyle services as part of the clients overall support package for those with long term conditions or multiple co-morbidities relating to obesity.

Our coaches visit all the GP practices quarterly to deliver the sign-off records for all the clients and also to provide copies of our quarterly newsletter which we produce to showcase our client success stories and keep all referrers abreast of our current commissioned activities and other relevant information.

Our staffing structure remains at 20 full time equivalents consisting of 13 full time and 9 part time coaches. We continue to have clinic sessions at all the main health centres, some every day. Our current contract is due to expire 31st March 2016. Talks are underway with Commissioners to inform the new tender expected in October/ November 2015.

The overall position of the Lifestyle Service is currently a strong one and we aim to hit at least 3 of our enhanced targets in 2015/16.

"The overall position of the Lifestyle Service is currently a strong one"



The VCS Hub

This was launched in February to support health and social care referrals to the VCS and to help promote the variety of VCS services. By the end of the financial year over 90 referrals had been received. VAST are keen to develop to the next stage in order to demonstrate outcomes for individuals and have started negotiations with partners to develop this further. We are awaiting confirmation that the project will be extended beyond its initial 6 month pilot.

It became apparent very early on in the project that there is a substantial gap in knowledge of the voluntary sector amongst health and social care professionals, with our initial evaluation indicating that 65% of frontline staff had only limited knowledge of the voluntary sector and what it could offer patients. Over 75% were unsure of what support could be offered by the voluntary sector. Consequently we felt it necessary to make sure that we were visible to teams in order for us to contribute and build that relationship. Hence it was decided to be physically present at a number of locations across the local health economy to build confidence and understanding of the voluntary sector and this has worked well.

Good relationships have been developed and are developing with ILCT teams, Community Providers, Stoke on Trent Social Care and GP surgeries. We have based ourselves out of Meir Primary Care Centre one day a week and are getting increasing interest from GPs.

In view of Information Governance issues and the limited time scale of the pilot it has not been possible to accept patients directly (up to this point), so in this initial period we have been supporting GP's and health professionals to identify appropriate referrals and support these.

We are recording the referrals and gaps / issues identified. Thus far the majority of referrals have been around befriending, carer support, dementia support and for supported social activities. The majority of conditions requiring support have been Dementia, Mental Health and Alcohol dependency. Gaps identified vary by area and we will continue to grow this body of information which can then be used to inform future commissioning either by the CCG or partner agencies. Public Health have also

expressed interest in the pilot.

We are keen to develop to the next stage and ensure that we are tracking individual outcomes directly with patients and work with partner VCS to determine the outcomes. This will fully demonstrate the value of the VCS and the outcomes that can be delivered, but in order to do so we need assurance that the pilot will be given at least a further 6 months funding in order to fully implement the 12 month specification and achieve the outcomes. The Provision of improving Health & Well Being Outcomes for pregnant and post natal women and their babies: A North Staffordshire Pilot

In September 2014 VAST, through its Lifestyle Service programme, was successful in tendering for the above pilot.

Two dedicated staff have been seconded to the project. 175 ante-natal referrals and 175 post- natal referrals were set as the target for the pilot. The focus of the project was maternal weight loss for those with high BMI's. Smoking cessation, reduction of alcohol intake and improvements in physical activity levels and healthy food consumption were interventions offered to both ante and post- natal clients.

A range of venues around North Staffordshire (Newcastle and Moorlands) were identified for referral meetings and close links were made with the midwives, infant feeding team and Children's centres to ensure a level of integrated service. The core offer was similar to that of the Stoke on Trent Lifestyle Service and adaptations, as part of the pilot learning, were made to offer a flexible and appropriate service to this client group and their individual needs.

Post-natal referrals were dependant, for the most part, on Health Visitor referrals and unfortunately this was not realised for a number of reasons, rendering the post-natal referral aspect of the programme ineffective from the point of view of the pilot outcomes.

A comprehensive evaluation was put in place and this will report in October 2015.

Key Successes

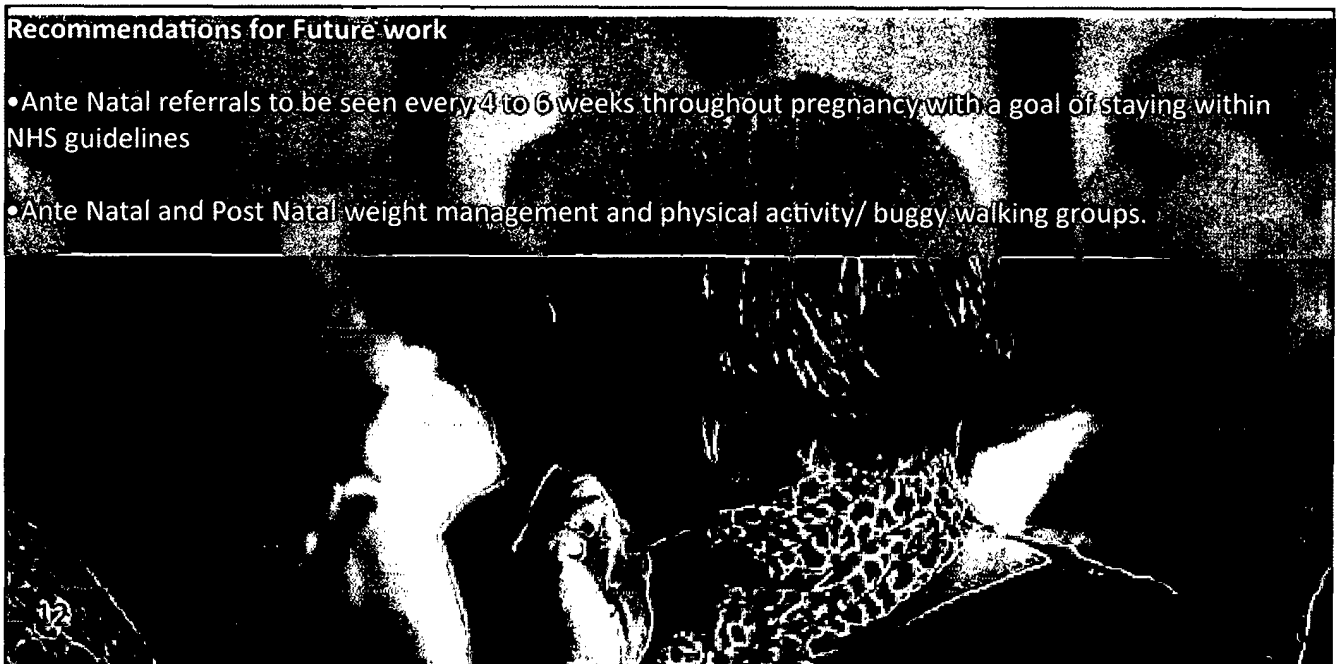
- Very effective relationships built with midwives during the pilot period
- Coaching report back was very positive in terms of the coaches effectiveness and the rapport and trust they built with clients
- Excellent case studies generated
- Significant success with women who had a BMI of 30 or above at their first ante natal appointment, staying within NHS weight management guidelines (minimum weight gain until 20 weeks and up to 7KGs by end of pregnancy)
- Effective relationship built with Pregnancy Well Being Service, resulting in a positive change in well being reported by the women we referred to this service.

Key Challenges

- Unable to obtain an appreciable number of referrals through the Health Visitor system set up
- Post Natal referral criteria was only up to 12 months after birth reducing referral possibilities
- Unable to obtain an appreciable number of smoking cessation referrals
- Unable to engage with majority of the small number of smokers that were referred
- Unable to engage with GPs, hence narrowing referral possibilities
- Lack of Ante and Post natal physical activities throughout Staffs
- Lack of referrals generated by attending baby clinics to promote the service
- Loss of the Breast Feeding Support Service
- Mobilisation period too short
- Only having 12 months to work on the Pilot

Recommendations for Future work

- Ante Natal referrals to be seen every 4 to 6 weeks throughout pregnancy with a goal of staying within NHS guidelines
- Ante Natal and Post Natal weight management and physical activity/ buggy walking groups.



Facilities

The Hub

The Hub opened its doors to tenants in September 2014. At this point 9 tenants moved into the Hub, with full access to the internet, telephones and other services. Over the next few months they were joined by another 6 tenants. The rooms were marketed via our marketing team and great interest has been shown in a number of further offices.

There are now only 2 empty offices available on the ground floor. There are also 3 meeting rooms and 1 hot desk/interview room provided. The 3 meeting rooms have all been decorated and fitted with new smart boards and projectors. VAST have now held 3 tenants meetings, which has given tenants the opportunity to meet each other and give an overview of the work they each do, and to make suggestions and engage in the day-to-day running of the Hub.

We have levered in a great deal of volunteer support in order to enable painting and decorating throughout the building, including offices, meeting rooms, kitchens, toilets and corridors. Ivan and Paul the caretakers have been coordinating much of the work, ably assisted by a large number of volunteers from a range of organisations, some of which include;

- The Princes Trust
- Argos
- DHL
- NCS
- AMEY
- VAST staff

Carpet tiles in the meeting rooms were lifted and put aside for 2 offices on the 2nd floor, new carpet tiles were fitted in all the meeting rooms and other carpets requiring cleaning were cleaned by a professional carpet cleaning company, in order to keep costs down and re-use materials where possible. The aim is to complete all decoration by the end of September 2015.

VAST held an open day in November and invited councillors and member organisations to attend, and tenants were invited to contribute to a marketplace situated in the Amerton meeting room.

The event was a great success and enabled tenants to market their services to a range of visitors and external stakeholders. 9 of the organisations at the Hub now use VASTs administration services such as mail franking, printing and photocopying.

The Dudson Centre

The Dudson Centre has had 2 new tenants move in this year. A large and long-standing tenant, previously occupying the 2nd floor, has left to move into alternative premises.



They had grown significantly and their offices were no longer big enough, hence their move. The offices have been marketed and a lot of interest has been shown although no one has yet committed to moving in. An existing tenant has taken on an extra office and 2 tenants have shown an interest in moving into larger offices within the Dudson Centre. There has been an increase in the use of the meeting rooms, one organisation has block booked a meeting room every other week for 12 months.

A lot of research has been done this year on the walkways and the bottle kiln. They are both in need of repair and several contractors have been consulted to advise us on the best way forward. The advice given is that the walkways are replaced in time due to the age of the current wooden decking and the bottle kiln is patch repaired. The museum is becoming more popular and has seen a lot more visitors this year than in previous years. They have approximately 3,000 visitors a year. Groups of school children have started to view the museum and use a small office to do activities.

Bill Goodwin, our caretaker of many years sadly passed away this year. Bill was a very popular member of staff with VAST staff, tenants and visitors alike, and is sorely missed. We have now recruited a part time caretaker on a permanent contract. The caretakers are working together to paint the offices on the 2nd floor and ensure any maintenance is complete within all areas of the Dudson Centre.



Feedback from Clients

VAST have continued to receive positive feedback from VCS organisations in regards to the free Engagement support offered across Staffordshire. One client that has accessed VAST's Engagement services is CHAIN South Staffordshire,

"We approached VAST by recommendation of the Chair of another group. We began working very closely with VAST to try and secure some funding bids and to also support us setting up all the policies.

We initially had our first meeting in May 2014. We had no money, we literally were funding our own DBS's and we were quite desperate to secure some funding to put on some really good projects locally. VAST we very helpful in helping us to apply to different funders and in September 2014 we were very fortunate in securing almost £15,000 from the Peoples Health Trust to sustain our group for two years."

Throughout the year we have also had positive feedback from clients accessing our Business Services. This has increased with the introduction of the VAST Bursary in December 2014. Headway North Staffordshire fed back about the Accounts services they accessed,

"I can wholehearted recommend VAST's accounts team for the quality of services they offer, the support given to Headway North Staffordshire during our time working together over the years has been exceptional.

Laura, Deb and all the team at VAST offer professionalism and expertise, always with a friendly reassuring nature. The service is prompt, reliable and invaluable to a charity such as ours that relies on the advice and support given to enable us to give the best service to our members.

Thank you for your continued support."

To encourage frequent client feedback an online form has been developed which makes it easier for our clients to feedback regarding the services they have accessed.

Case Studies

Throughout the year VAST have continued to deliver high quality support to VCS sector organisations across Staffordshire.

1. DEAFvibe receiving support from a VAST Engagement Officer.

VAST supported charity DEAFvibe with offering information and advice on finding resources and relevant funding to support in the delivery of their charitable objectives, Improving communication between deaf people and hearing people. The charity also required support in legally setting up and operating under a charitable constitution and Accountancy support.

"We've had meetings one-to-one with VAST staff and we've had internet communication. VAST has helped us tremendously with setting up an accountancy system; they've helped us going through the setting up as a charitable organisation so all matters relating to that which was to quote the pun, a vast amount of work." – Colin Ayres, DEAFvibe.

VAST's Senior Engagement Officer Colin Williamson who supported the charity was rewarded with an award at their annual awards ceremony by DEAFvibe for the contribution he has made to the development of the organisation.



2. A team of 96 staff from local business 'risual' volunteering at House of Bread

VAST's CSR Officer and Engagement Team brokered a relationship between 'risual' and Stafford based charity House of Bread allowing the business to fulfil their CSR objectives and the charity to receive the invaluable support of 100 volunteers working in the community allotment, the kitchen and helping to tidy their food donation storage area.

"The impact and difference that VAST made in terms of being a co-ordinator was huge. In other words, without their involvement we would not have engaged with risual and risual would not have gifted 96 people to spend 5 hours with us which achieved huge outcomes, so without that starting process, what wouldn't have happened, we wouldn't have been in a position to be months ahead on a number of different areas and part of that is the success of developing that relationship.

I would recommend VAST to other organisations because they work effectively and efficiently, they're nice people and they are connected in ways to businesses as an independent charity you would struggle to." – William Morris, Director, House of Bread



3. VAST have supported tenants, The Dove Service at both community resource centres.

VAST manage two community resource centres; The Dudson Centre in Stoke-on-Trent and The Hub in Stafford. The Dove Service has office facilities at both sites and VAST facilities team have worked closely with the registered charity to ensure their tenancy is as positive as possible. As well as offering office space and facilities VAST's Marketing Team have also worked closely with The Dove Service to develop a new website and design and print marketing material,

"We have a very strong, open and positive relationship with VAST. If there are any operational issues with our tenancy, they have taken these on board and worked to resolve matters. They have provided us with opportunities to expand our premises, both at Eastgate and at the Dudson Centre, and the refurbishment work undertaken has

been of good quality and value for money in getting those premises ready for us.

We have also significantly benefitted from the marketing support provided and now choose to undertake all our design and printing through VAST, including a complete re-design of our website." – Joanne Speed, Chief Executive, The Dove Service



Quotations

A range of quotations has been collected representing the wide range of services offered by VAST and the benefits to their organisation.

To ensure voluntary organisations are able to access comprehensive and quality support VAST provides advice and information on its website and also produces regular e-bulletins and newsletters for the sector. Since the year end VAST has also launched the VAST Vault to provide a resource centre for members.

"We have had a great day. Not only is it a fantastic team building exercise we are giving something back to the community and this is project that we are all really proud to be a part of" – Jane Johnson, Aspire
Aspire volunteering at Peak Wildlife Park



"VAST suggested that we could benefit from businesses in the UK who would like to fulfil their corporate social responsibility. Today we have been very lucky, we've had five people from Royal Bank of Scotland and they have been absolute superstars!" – George Furnival, Krizevac
RBS volunteering at Krizevac



"The feedback from the team regarding the training has been extremely positive. Thank you" -
Everybody Sport and Leisure.
Charity Accounts Training

"We are highly delighted with the result plus the speed and efficiency of your work" - David Fuller,
Macular Society
Design and Print Services



7. Objective 3: Support the Development of a vibrant & thriving local Civil Society

Volunteering

VAST has been successfully promoting volunteering through volunteeringinstaffordshire.org.uk, events, recruitment fairs and in joint volunteer recruitment events with Colleges. Over the year a number of events have been held. Training, which included 'The benefits of volunteering' and 'Accessing volunteerinstaffordshire.org.uk', was well received by local groups.

VAST's support for the new Prince's Trust team hosted by Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Services, continued to develop opportunities for the National Citizenship's Service social action project, successfully linking a team of volunteers with Lichfield and Hatherton Canal and Restoration Trust.

Over the last quarter of the year new organisations registered onto VMS creating new live volunteering opportunities. The diverse range of opportunities included Douglas Macmillan requiring support from VAST in promoting opportunities within the Leek area, The National Trust advertising conservation volunteers in Kinver, Golden Oldies requiring session assistants in a care setting to residents in Uttoxeter and SOVA registering multiple mentoring opportunities across the county.

Employee Supported Volunteering (ESV)

Volunteering uptake through our ESV programme goes from strength to strength. Organisations such as AMEY and Michelin are being supported by VAST's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) service in finding valuable volunteering opportunities for individuals and teams of staff. Over the last three months of the year AMEY have successfully completed a day of painting and decorating a charity's room at the VCS Hub as well as installing a bench for staff and service users to use at the rear of the property. Aspire have been successfully linked in with a Wildlife Centre and the Michelin have been presented with a list of projects within North Staffordshire, which could include a conservation project at Apedale Country Park.

Statistics for the year:

- **279 new volunteer registrations**
- **55 volunteers placed through the VMS.**
- **48 new organisations have registered.**
- **124 sessions were delivered supporting organisations with policies and procedures,**

Development and Funding Support

Overall 631 unique VCS organisations attended either funding events/surgeries or 1-2-1 funding sessions during this financial year. The target in the contract was for 300 so this exceeded expectations. 12 different events or networking and support surgeries were held across Staffordshire, specifically in relation to funding. They are not 1-2-1 sessions, and are separate to any other events or surgeries reported elsewhere. The County contract target was for 8 events through the year.

588 'one to one' funding support sessions were delivered to organisations in 2014-15. These sessions help groups to develop their awareness of funding opportunities and their ability to bid for funding. This might include funding searches, support to complete grant applications and associated material (e.g project plan/budget). There was no annual target for this figure within the contract.

59 sessions were classed as intensive support to directly develop organisations through tricky areas or through long term objectives. This far exceeded the contract target of 8, so it was decided that there needed to be greater clarity within the contract around the specifications of each elements of the contract.

Along with this target, there was agreement that the definitions around the descriptions of some other areas would need to be changed for the next year, but changes began in the final quarter of 2014-15 to try and make a move towards supporting organisations to become eventually Commission experienced, where that line of work would suit their structure.

During this year there were discussions with County Council around how VAST could help to define the skills of organisations, particularly in relation to Council Commissioning Prospectus opportunities and if VAST could support more organisations to move up the ladder to become more able to take on detailed contracts and commissions. So this year saw a change of focus, away from counting the type of subjects covered by officers in the 1-2-1 sessions, to assessing the skills level of the organisation being supported. Organisations are assessed to fit into one of three categories: Community focussed, Contractual Delivery or Commission Experienced. This is on-going work that will provide more data into the next year.

9 consultation events took place across the County. These events were where VAST has pro-actively taken a lead role in running a consultation exercise on behalf of or in partnership with the County Council. This is to include publicising, hosting and facilitating a consultation event. It may be to organise a whole event or to actively support a wider County Council event

7 issue based forums with providers, organised by VAST, to discuss specific issues or topics, as agreed with Staffordshire County Council. These are in addition to the consultation exercises identified above.

Partners for delivery of elements of this contract are Age UK South Staffordshire, for intensive development support, and Saltbox, for work in Staffordshire Moorlands and East Staffordshire.

In the final Quarter of this year the Annual VAST Conference took place at Yarnfield Conference Centre, situated in the borough of Stafford. There were 157 attendees on the day and 35 stands were occupied on the day.

In regards to VAST's online presence throughout the year VAST's website received 62,664 views and has distributed 114 ebulletins to voluntary organisations. VAST's social media accounts are also showing increased engagement with the sector with 277 Facebook likes and 1,638 twitter followers.

There were changes to the management structure. Management used to be divided geographically (ie Craig was Development and Volunteering manager for south of county up to Nov 2014) From November 2014 the whole team was structured and re-titled as Engagement and management structure brought the team management more in-line with specialisms – Craig taking responsibility for volunteering , Deborah taking responsibility for development.

"Volunteering uptake through our ESV programme goes from strength to strength."



8. Objective 4: Represent CSO's interests and advocate on their behalf

Staffordshire Voice

Staffordshire Voice is the branding given to the mechanisms through which we engage the voluntary and community sector across Staffordshire and link them with colleagues from the public sector. It consists of the following;

Voluntary Sector Forums

Our Forums allow commissioners and other key personnel from our statutory partners to talk with sector organisations around some of the key issues affecting the communities of Staffordshire. As well as our Staffordshire Chief Officers Forum (which is targeted at our larger charitable organisations) and our Newcastle Voluntary Sector Forum we have also developed forums around key themes including Health & Wellbeing, Children Young People and Families, Economic Development and Safe strong Communities. During the year members of the Health & Wellbeing Forum were able to discuss the Staffordshire Mental Health Strategy with the County Commissioner for Mental Health, whilst the Chief Officers group were able to hear about, and question public sector colleagues around Integrated Commissioning and operations and closer engagement with the Health & Wellbeing Board.

In Newcastle the forum has enabled members to engage directly with both the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council to share their concerns around the future of services during this period of continued austerity.

The forums have also provided an opportunity for networking between providers which supports one of our aims of increased partnership work across the sector.

On-line feedback / consultation

VAST represents the sector at a variety of partnership meetings across the county. Feedback from these meetings is provided on the Staffordshire Voice web pages of the VAST website. As well as providing feedback the website also offers an opportunity for the sector to feedback their thoughts on any of the issues discussed through on-line forums. The use of on-line forums to provide

an ongoing dialogue around issues is new to the sector and to date has not been widely used. We do intend to pursue this method of communication as the capacity to come together to discuss the issues becomes increasingly difficult as resources within organisations become increasingly stretched.

Consultation events on-line

VAST have undertaken two online consultations during the reporting period. These were;

- Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Compact
- Supporting People Budget cuts.



9. Objective 5: Support Public Sector & Civil Society Engagement

Supporting People Engagement

In July 2014, 41 providers who received funding through the Supporting People Grant were informed that the grant would be phased out over a 18 month period commencing in September 2014 and concluding at the end of March 2016.

VAST were asked to offer support to providers to help mitigate the effects of the cuts and all those affected were e-mailed with the offer. As a result of the offer 3 groups responded and two funding searches were carried out.

We also hosted a provider event in September 2014. At the meeting we had a range of speakers to help inform the providers on alternative means of financing their services as well as giving providers an opportunity to discuss with their peers how to minimise the impact of the cuts on their services.

On behalf of those organisations affected by the cuts VAST put together a sector led Impact Assessment Report that covered both the process of the cuts itself together with the potential impact to service users. The report concluded with three key recommendations for future activity around this agenda. It was presented to Councillor Alan White the cabinet member for Health & Wellbeing at the same time as a report compiled by Healthwatch with a user's perspective.

Police and Crime Commissioner

VAST has worked closely with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner throughout the past year. We have represented the sector on a working group overseeing the putting together of the new tender specification for a Victims Gateway for Staffordshire. The contract was secured by a local voluntary sector provider. We also worked closely with the commissioner's office in compiling a bid that they submitted to the Police Competed fund. The bid was successful and 11 local voluntary sector providers were each awarded £10k to set up a network of Victims Champions across the county.

Public Health

VAST has worked closely with the Public Health team during the reporting period. We facilitated 3 events across the county to help inform the 2014/2015 Public Health Commissioning Prospectuses. We promoted the prospectuses on our various communication channels and offered to the sector support around putting a bid together through our team of engagement officers. We also sat on several of the evaluation panels that scored the resulting bids from the commissioning process.

VAST put together a report on the Commissioning Prospectus process and how accessible it was to local voluntary sector providers. We shared the report with the Public Health Team to help aid any future commissioning rounds of the prospectus funding.

Strategic Liaison Manager

Dave Benge is the Strategic Liaison Manager for VAST based at the Hub in Stafford. His role is to ensure that the sector is kept well informed about latest thinking from our statutory partners. He also attends a number of partnership meetings on behalf of the sector to ensure that the sector is able to influence both statutory sector decision making in the development of future services and in the commissioning and de-commissioning of services.

Dave facilitates the various voluntary sector forums held under Staffordshire Voice. These meetings continue to be well attended and allow for direct engagement between the sector and key influential public sector officers. Dave is also leading on the update to the Staffordshire Compact. The compact is the document that outlines the key principles that are the basis for the way the public, private and voluntary sector organisations work together in Staffordshire. A number of key public sector partners have already signed up to the Compact and Dave is working closely with the others to promote the benefits of Compact working. He is also going to be asking voluntary sector providers to individually sign up to the Compact to show real commitment from the sector as well.

Strategic Liaison Manager Health

Lorien Barber was recruited to the post of Strategic Liaison Manager for Health and started in September 2014. During this year, Lorien has;

- Facilitated the strategic engagement of Stoke CCG with the VCS
- Provided a strategic interface between Stoke CCG and the VCS to promote mutual understanding
- Supported commissioners in the delivery of services through the local VCS
- Worked closely with Age UK regarding a couple of proposals that they have been invited to work up for Stoke & North Staffs CCG.
- Worked with Support Staffordshire to develop a cross health economy strategy for North Staffs on working with the VCS. A workshop has been held and a draft strategy is now being worked up
- Been raising the profile of existing VCS services and potential services in the North Staffs Service Redesign Step up Step Down
- Promoted the launch of the CCG funding website through VAST's database, e-bulletin and newsletter
- Supported the VCS with, and publicised, The Grant funding advice toolkit
- Worked with the CCG to implement the Grant Funding Framework
- Supported the VCS with applications
- Assisted in the commissioning of Stoke CCG grants of £234k, in the areas of: self care; supporting people being discharged from hospital; supporting older people to remain independent, and worked with the decommissioning of a VCS organisation who were not successful in grants programme
- Confirmed the continuation of £234k worth of a grant funding to the sector by Stoke CCG and further 1 year contracts were secured for the grant funded programme. Unfortunately we were unable to influence the decision to apply the statutory deflator across all NHS contracts on this occasion but were successful in protecting the commitment to the local VCS
- Supported Stoke CCG to complete a comprehensive review of VCS activity, the outcome of the review has informed the current VCS strategy
- Completed a mid-term review of Stoke CCG VCS Grant Scheme for the 6 successful organisations
- Included extensive NHS/CCG/Health information on the VAST website
- Supported CCG & 2 VCS organisations with 2 new grant funded schemes (Carelink & Domestic Violence A&E Intervention Service £200k additional investment)
- Attended ILTC Steering Groups to input views of VCS in supporting Community Health care
- Facilitated ongoing dialogue with VCS including through Staffordshire Voice, VSCOG, Think Tank & at our Annual Conference where health was a key topic.
- Engaged with the 2 shortlisted providers for the East Staffordshire Improving Lives procurement to ensure that they were aware of the local VCS and how it could support delivery of End of Life Care and Long Term Conditions services in East Staffs. The successful provider, Virgin Care is now developing its implementation plans and has made direct contact with a number of local organisations
- Promoted the 2014/15 commissioning intentions & commissioning prospectuses to the local VCS sector
- Raised the issue of working with the local VCS as highlighted within the Five Year Forward View at CCG Board Meetings across the County.

Healthwatch

Healthwatch Stoke-on-Trent has spent this year consolidating its position and relationships across the City. Healthwatch has also worked hard to grow its membership and awareness with the public and other stakeholders.

Healthwatch has been extremely active in embedding itself as an independent organisation able to fulfil the statutory functions it is commissioned to deliver. The health economy locally has faced some significant challenges during the year. Identified as one of 11 Distressed Health Economies across England, the leaders of health and care services across Stoke and Staffordshire have had to step up to the table to address the challenges presented. Healthwatch Stoke-on-Trent was invited to be a member of the group which led the KPMG review of the local health economy. Our manager Val Lewis took the role of representing patient voice at these meetings and reminding decision makers that any proposals needed to put the patient at the heart of the solution

The winter of 2014/15 will be remembered locally as the time when our University Hospital of North Midlands Accident and Emergency performance was in the national headlines for many days in succession for all the wrong reasons.

The decision to bring Royal Stoke and County Hospital Stafford together in the University Of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) led to some public concern. In Staffordshire these were about proposals to move services up to Stoke-on-Trent, and in Stoke-on-Trent concerns were aired about the capacity of the Stoke site to manage the increased volume of patients.

Both Healthwatch Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent worked together to support UHNM to engage in public dialogue over the plans. This proved to be very successful for all parties and further collaboration on a number of pieces of work has since taken place.

Healthwatch Stoke-on Trent has been involved across the broadest range of activity from focused A&E surveys, GP Access Surveys, Mental Health Access, Discharge Pathways, Parkinsons work, through to the engagement with Public Health

running their Big Alcohol Debate, and very specific input to the series of Health Literacy workshops in the City.

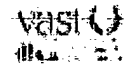
Healthwatch Stoke on-Trent has not been content with only raising its profile successfully. Healthwatch has also attended a Health Select Committee to give evidence on the Transforming Cancer and End of Life Programme in Stoke and Staffordshire. Additionally, local young people were quoted in a parliamentary debate by local MP Rob Ffello who shared some of their messages around the CAMH's (Children and Adolescent Mental health services) to support improvements in these services.

It is also pleasing to report that Healthwatch has a presence, and makes a significant contribution, at most strategic tables in the city now, and is highly valued for the views expressed by Healthwatch Stoke-on-Trent because it is so well grounded in public opinion.



10. Performance Report

VAST



Vision: At the heart of the local VCS; Enabling local communities.

Mission: Develop a vibrant and thriving VCS sector to improve the quality of life of local residents.

<p>Key Deliverable 1:</p> <p>Support a vibrant & thriving local VCS to enhance the lives of local communities.</p> <p>Objective 1: Support the capacity building and development of the VCS by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building - Government to support and encourage voluntary organisations Developing income - To provide contractors to support the VCS to secure contracts Support the VCS to fund and fundraise Local partnerships and partnerships with VCS for community change Shared resources - For example, Council, the VCS and local businesses <p>Objective 2: Promote, support and develop volunteering via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employer Support of Volunteering Events and place schemes Promote volunteer opportunities online Support volunteer training and skills 	<p>Key Deliverable 2:</p> <p>Support the VCS interests and advocate on their behalf with stakeholders.</p> <p>Objective 3: Represent VCS interests and advocate on their behalf and support the public and private sector in engagement with the VCS and vice versa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be the link between VCS, statutory public and private sectors Two way information dissemination between sectors Local needs assessment and intelligence - collate key local issues to inform community schemes Advocate for the VCS and represent their interests Provide quality services, engagement and enterprise 	<p>Key Deliverable 3:</p> <p>Maintain, improve and continue to supporting the local VCS in service delivery.</p> <p>Objective 4: Support the VCS in securing tenders and commissioned services by acting as a prime contractor for local councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support VCS to secure funds and contracts Support local procurement Work with commissioners on local delivery 	<p>Key Deliverable 4:</p> <p>Provide quality services, engagement and enterprise.</p> <p>Objective 5: Provide high quality professional services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Services - Accounts, Payroll, Bookkeeping and Annual Returns Creative Services - Graphic Design, Printing, Website Design and Social Media Support Services - Bespoke services to capture business and demonstrate effectiveness Corporate Social Responsibility - Support local business in VCS involvement
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VAST Trustees Report - 1st April 2014 - 31st March 2015 (Cumulative QTR 4)

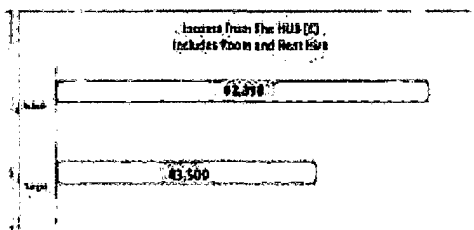
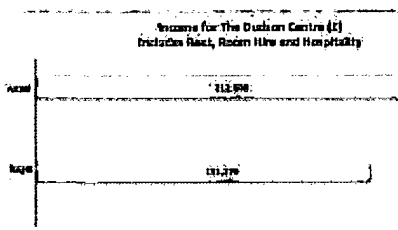
<p>Key Deliverable 1</p> <p>Support a vibrant & thriving local VCS to enhance the lives of the local community.</p>
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Organisations 1-2-1 Funding Support (Cumulative in Year)

Newcastle Borough	47
Stafford Borough	52
South Staffordshire	25
Canterbury Chase	35
Stamworth Borough	19
Westfield District	32
East Staffordshire	35
Staffordshire Moorlands	58

Organisations 1-2-1 Development Support (Cumulative in Year)

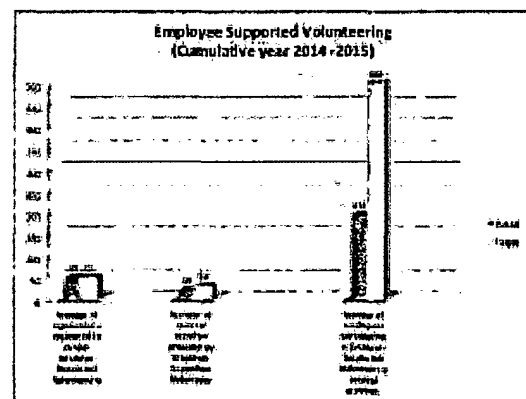
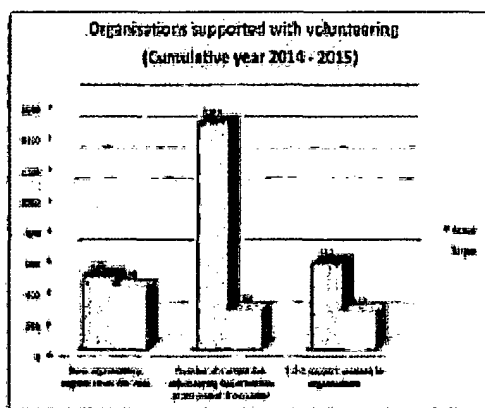
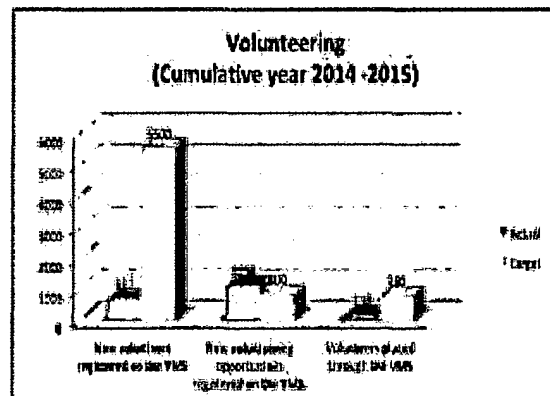
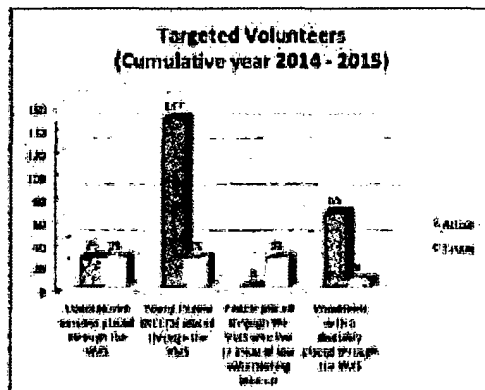
Newcastle Borough	107
Stafford Borough	99
South Staffordshire	67
Canterbury Chase	80
Stamworth Borough	47
Westfield District	60
East Staffordshire	85
Staffordshire Moorlands	121



Key Deliverable 1

Support a vibrant & thriving local VCS to enhance the lives of the local community.

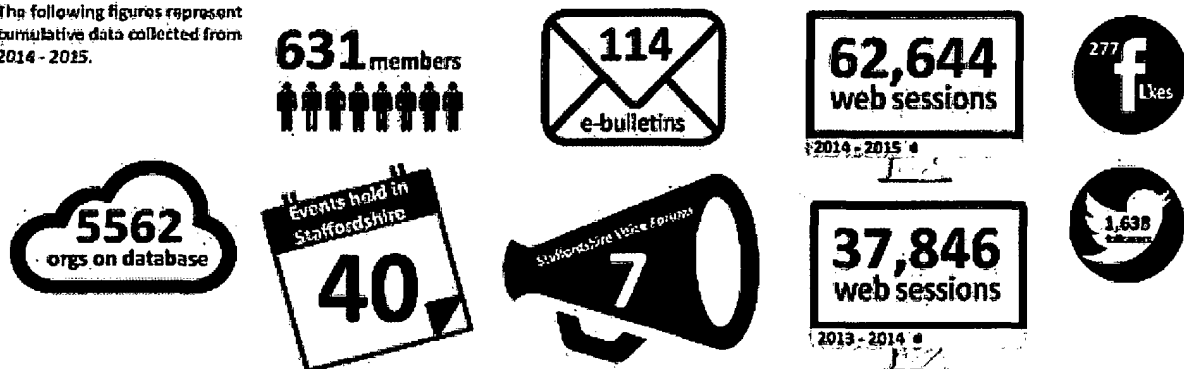
The below charts consist of cumulative data which is recorded quarterly with 'actual' compared to 'target' figure.



Key Deliverable 2

Support the VCS interests and advocate on their behalf with stakeholders.

The following figures represent cumulative data collected from 2014 - 2015.



Key Deliverable 3

Maintain, innovate and continue to support the local VCS in service delivery.

The One Staffordshire Lead Provider offer was launched 31st March 2015. The following data is representative for year 2015 - 2016.



One Staffordshire Consultations (May - June 2015)

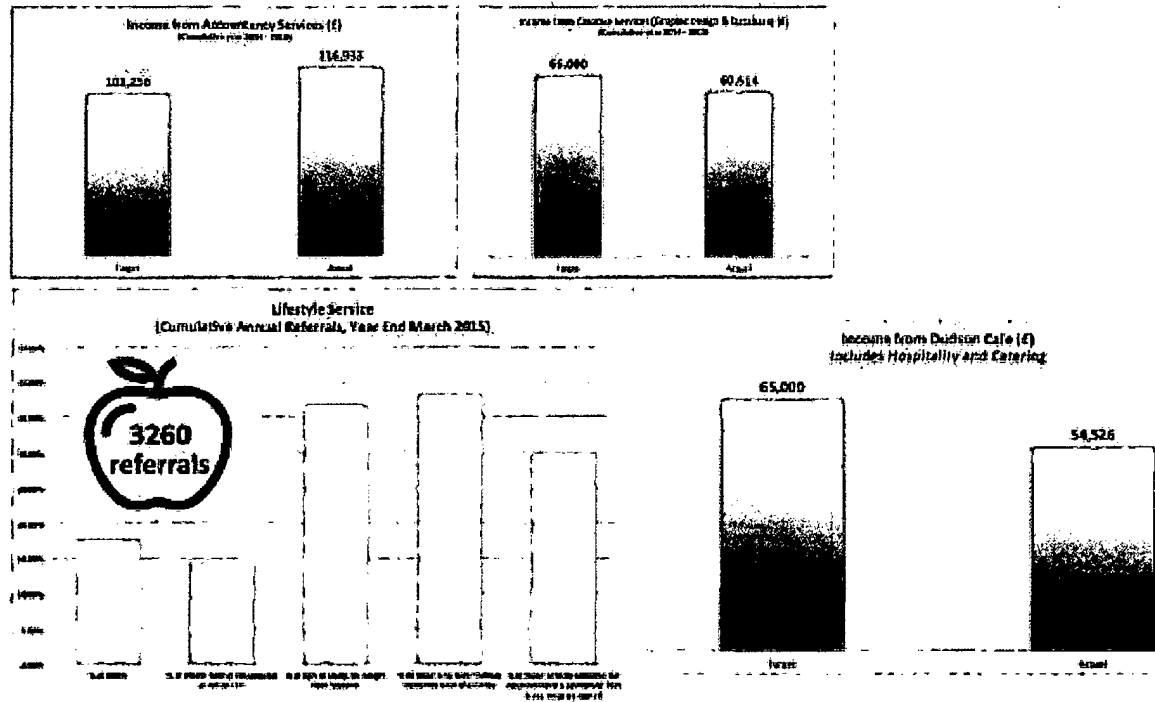
Number of people booked on to sessions:

Stoke: 21	Lichfield: 7	Tamworth: 7
Burton: 20	Codsall: 1	
Cannock: 5	Stafford: 11	

Key Deliverable 4

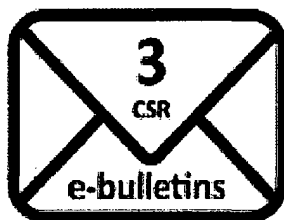
Provide quality services, engagement and enterprise.

The following charts represent cumulative data throughout year April 2014 - March 2015.



CSR Engagement with local businesses.

This section of key deliverable 4 reflects the new CSR proposal currently under development.



11. Trustees

VAST is governed by a Board of up to fifteen Trustees who are appointed by the board based upon a skills matrix to ensure a range of skills and representation from all communities. This is achieved in one of three ways:-

- Any voluntary organisation or community group either based in or operating in Staffordshire is eligible for membership, on becoming members they may nominate trustees.
- Trustees try to ensure an ongoing and appropriate skills and gender balance, where any gaps are noted they seek to appoint appropriate skills through an application process.
- Occasionally the trustees may co-opt individuals with relevant skills to strengthen the Board.

All of these appointments are then ratified by members at the AGM.

The day to day management and running of the charity has been delegated to the Chief Executive supported by the Assistant Chief Executive and a senior management team of four managers.

Current Serving Trustees



Neil Dawson
Chair



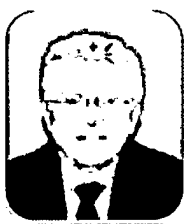
Mark Barnish
Treasurer
Sub-Committees
Finance & General
Purposes



Sophia Baker



John Webbe
Sub-Committees
Finance & General
Purpose



John Beech
Sub-Committees
Health



Peter Twilley
Sub-Committees
Training



Chris Lawley



David Holton
Sub-Committees
Finance & General
Purpose



Tim Edwards



Dawn Wickham



Jeanette Sword



Susan Meredith

12. Governance

Governing Document

VAST is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association, last amended in 2006.

Trustee Induction and Training

All trustees receive an induction into VAST and receive a handbook. During the year the trustee handbook has been renewed to assist both new and established trustees. In addition we have embarked on a programme of development including a series of away days for trustees. These sessions focus on governance issues for trustees including finance, structure and strategic planning.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit when planning the activities of the charity.

Statement of Trustees Roles & Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of VAST for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.

- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The VAST trustees aim to maintain sufficient free reserves in unrestricted funds to ensure the charity remains sustainable in the event of a significant loss of funding or other unforeseen financial difficulties arising.

As such they aim to carry such funds at a level which equates to approximately twelve months charitable expenditure which equates to approximately £2.5m.

Currently we hold £255,267 in free unrestricted reserves. Total reserves stand at £748,420 of which £629,496 is unrestricted, and of this £273,065 is designated.

Risk

The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the trustees, have been reviewed, and systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks.

Investment Powers, Policy and Performance

The policy of VAST has been to invest surplus funds in the growth of the business. VAST aims to carry sufficient cash of up to £100,000 in bank current or higher interest deposit accounts to fund its predicted working capital requirement.

Surplus funds over £100,000 are deposited in our Unity Reserves Account, in a high interest fixed term bond or in within our investment portfolio managed by Brewin Dolphin. This meets the objective of a higher return than average deposit accounts, without risking the funds, while maintaining maximum flexibility to fund new projects. The trustees are mindful of the current low interest rate return on cash deposits and their potential to fall below inflation levels thereby eroding reserves.



"At the heart of the local VCS: Enabling local communities" - VAST Vision

13. Financial Report

VAST's finances continued to be healthy during 2014/2015.

Our overall income has decreased from £2.47m in 2013/2014 to £2.12m in 2014/2015. The income from our Generated Funds has increased year on year, in line with our strategic plan to raise enough funds from generated income to sustain our charitable activities, should the need arise.

The Unrestricted activities for 2014/2015 show an income of £1,161,140 (£1,988,054 2013/2014) with outgoing resources of £1,388,322 for the year (£2,144,525 for 2013/2014). These costs reflect VAST's investment in expanding services across the county including a new office in Stafford.

We have further developed our Customer Relationship Management System which will enable us to further increase our Generated Funds in the coming years.

VAST's restricted funds had a brought forward balance of £200,330 and received income within the year of £963,191 (£483,686 2013/2014). Expenditure for the year was £1,030,440 (£964,594 2013/14) leaving a carry forward balance of £141,297 all of which is committed to be spent on project activity.

Overall the total incoming resources for VAST for the year was £2,124,331 compared to the prior year £2,471,737. The total resources expended for 2014/2015 was £2,418,762, compared to £2,641,020 in 2013/2014.

After taking into account the gains and losses on investments the net movement in the year was £220,230 deficit in unrestricted funds and £59,033 on restricted funds. When the brought forward balances are considered the final position shows unrestricted reserves of £629,496, and restricted reserves to carry forward of £141,297.

Of these unrestricted reserves £273,065, are designated for specific expenditure in line with VAST's strategic plan.

£150,000, is set aside for increased business development. This money is due to be spent over the coming two years and will help VAST's saleable services achieve recognition in the private sector, as well as strengthening and growing our market share within the VCS.

£50,000, is designated for use in further developing our Community Accountancy arm by increasing capacity by recruiting a further member of the team and thereby ensuring we have capacity to fulfil clients' deadlines and develop our training arm. This will be expended during the next two years.

£13,065, is designated for use within the Merrial Street office. This is set aside for marketing and promotional materials to advertise the presence of VAST within the Newcastle under Lyme area.

£60,000 is held in reserve designated for VAST to explore and fund new sources of income.

Related Parties, Partnership Working and Networks

The Charity continues to support and participate in several key and strategic partnerships representing the interests of the VCS. At a regional level VAST is a member of RAWM – Regional Action West Midlands and locally in the Third Sector Think Tank and Staffordshire Strategic Partnership.

VAST is affiliated to NAVCA (National Association of Voluntary and Community Action) and is also extensively involved in several networks and partnerships including – Staffordshire Voice, VSCOG (Voluntary Sector Chief Officers Group).

Funding Sources

VAST's principle funding sources for 2014/15 are the Staffordshire County Council, who fund our countywide development and volunteering project and Stoke on Trent City Council, which fund our Lifestyle programme and Healthwatch Stoke on Trent.

A large amount of VAST funding comes from our generated funds, which in 2014/15 accounted for 30% of income.

The charity acts as custodian trustees over cash held for the following not for profit organisations:

- o RSPCA – Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
- o Trentham Pre School
- o Stoke on Trent Foodbank
- o Haregate Community Centre.
- o ASHA
- o Bentilee Volunteers
- o RubyGirl UK
- o Blurton Community Hub
- o NSAAA
- o Hardman Football Development Centre
- o Disability Solutions
- o South Staffs Citizens Advice Bureau
- o Project House
- o Progressive Sports
- o Stoke on Trent Foodbank

This money is held in order that invoices can be paid on behalf of these organisations, enabling them to achieve their charitable objectives.

These monies are held in the charity's bank account and a separate nominal code kept to record any transactions on the balance sheet, which appears in other creditors and does not form part of the charity's own funds

VAST's annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015 have been prepared by the trustees in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and reporting by Charities" issued in 2005 in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The overall objectives of VAST are to enhance the quality of life of local residents through the development of the social economy by developing the local community and voluntary sectors.

There are three related or connected charities:-

Staffordshire Community Foundation which is an independent charity (Charity Registration no. 1091628) with its own board of trustees, VAST was one of two members of this charity during the year.

The Dudson Centre is also an independent charity (reg. No. 1059186), the trustees have subcontracted the management of The Dudson Centre to VAST. VAST is a member of this charity.

Healthwatch Stoke-on-Trent CIO is a separate charity (reg no: 1151423) whose accounts are consolidated within these financial statements on the basis that VAST exercises dominant influence and control over its activities. Further information can be found in note 19 to the accounts.

14. The Future

Short Term – 12-18 months

- Build income from sales of services to £500k per annum
- Develop marketing to achieve greater market penetration
- 200 members purchasing multiple services from VAST by improved cross-selling
- Demonstrate social return on investment for VAST services, and support our members to do the same
- Development of the Dudson Centre and the Hub

Medium Term – 18 - 36 months

- Develop an external funding unit with the task of identifying and securing funds
- Aim for the investor in People Gold Standard and ISO 9000 Quality Assurance
- 400 members purchasing multiple services from VAST by improved cross-selling
- Develop new and unrelated enterprises to contribute to sustainability

Long Term – 3 – 5 years

- Build VAST's investment to £1m providing regular income
- 500 members purchasing multiple services from VAST by improved cross-selling.

Neil Dawson



Neil Dawson
Chair

19 October 2015



"Develop a vibrant and thriving VCS sector to
improve quality of life"
- VAST Mission

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF VAST SERVICES (1920) FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015 (REGISTRATION NO:1049663)**

We have audited the financial statements of VAST Services (1920) for the year ended 31 March 2015 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated and Parent Charitable Company Balance Sheet, and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities).

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and its trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body and its trustees as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 28, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

We have been appointed auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with those Acts. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of:

- whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the group's and parent charitable company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed;
- the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and
- the overall presentation of the financial statements.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Report of the Trustees to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF VAST SERVICES (1920)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015 (REGISTRATION NO: 1049663)**

Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2015, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Small Entities; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

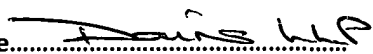
In our opinion, the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the parent charitable company has not kept adequate and sufficient accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Signature.....



Jonathan Dudley

Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of:

Dains LLP

Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

Suite 2, Albion House
2 Etruria Office Village
Forge Lane
Etruria
Stoke on Trent, ST1 5RQ

Date: 19 October 2015

Dains LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
<u>Incoming Resources</u>					
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds					
Activities for Generating Funds	3	653,974	-	653,974	466,541
Investment Income		19,837	-	19,837	20,623
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities					
Grants & Contracts	4	487,329	963,191	1,450,520	1,984,573
Total incoming resources		1,161,140	963,191	2,124,331	2,471,737
<u>Resources Expended</u>					
Cost of generating funds					
Activities to Generate funds	5	721,951	-	721,951	870,556
Charitable Activities	5	655,701	1,030,440	1,686,141	1,746,610
Governance	5	10,670	-	10,670	23,854
Total Resources Expended	5	1,388,322	1,030,440	2,418,762	2,641,020
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources before Transfers		(227,182)	(67,249)	(294,431)	(169,283)
Transfers		(8,216)	8,216	-	-
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources Before Other Recognised Gains		(235,398)	(59,033)	(294,431)	(169,283)
Other recognised gains					
Realised loss on disposal of investments		(3,439)	-	(3,439)	7,340
Gain on revaluation of investments	12	18,607	-	18,607	38,910
Net Movement in Funds	15	(220,230)	(59,033)	(279,263)	(123,033)
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward	15-17	849,726	200,330	1,050,056	1,173,089
Total funds carried forward		629,496	141,297	770,793	1,050,056

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing operations.

The notes on pages 38-49 form part of these financial statements.

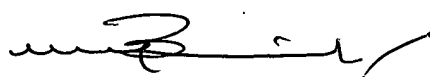
CONSOLIDATED AND CHARITY BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2015

		Group		Charity	
	Notes	2015 £	2014 £	2015 £	2014 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	11	374,229	30,231	374,229	30,231
Investments	12	333,166	678,099	333,166	678,099
		<u>707,395</u>	<u>708,330</u>	<u>707,395</u>	<u>708,330</u>
Current Assets					
Debtors	13	195,687	154,641	215,641	166,091
Cafe Stock		784	1,347	784	1,347
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>255,953</u>	<u>399,964</u>	<u>255,953</u>	<u>399,964</u>
Total Current Assets		452,424	555,952	472,378	567,402
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(389,026)</u>	<u>(214,226)</u>	<u>(431,353)</u>	<u>(282,816)</u>
Net current assets		63,398	341,726	41,025	284,586
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Assets		<u>770,793</u>	<u>1,050,056</u>	<u>748,420</u>	<u>992,916</u>
Funds					
Capital funds		6	6	6	6
Unrestricted funds - General	16	356,431	576,661	356,397	576,627
Unrestricted funds - Designated	16	273,065	273,065	273,065	273,065
Restricted funds	17	<u>141,291</u>	<u>200,324</u>	<u>118,952</u>	<u>143,218</u>
		<u>770,793</u>	<u>1,050,056</u>	<u>748,420</u>	<u>992,916</u>

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice –Accounting and Reporting by Charities and in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006 and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008)

The financial statements on pages 36-49 were approved by the Board on 19 October 2015 and signed on its behalf by

Mark Barnish



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) and follow the recommendations in 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice' issued in March 2005.

In accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities the company is not required to produce a cash flow statement.

1.2 Group financial statements

These financial statements consolidate the results of the charitable company and its subsidiary Healthwatch Stoke-on-Trent CIO on a line by line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities for the charity itself is not presented as the charitable company has taken advantage of the exemption afforded by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and paragraph 304 of the Statement of Recommended Practice 2005. A summary of the financial statements of the charity itself is included in note 2.

1.3 Incoming resources

Income is credited to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable. The income and expenditure account is presented in the form considered most appropriate to the current activities of the charity.

Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable. Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

In addition to the income disclosed in the financial statements VAST also receives help and support in the form of voluntary assistance. This help and support is not included in the financial statements. This voluntary assistance is very much appreciated.

1.4 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure that meets these criteria is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

1.5 Stock accounting

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete items.

1.6 Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the year in which they are incurred.

Direct charitable expenditure is identified as cost incurred directly as a result of running the various projects and supporting voluntary groups that are members of VAST.

Costs of generating voluntary income are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

1.6 Resources expended (continued)

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates to the activity. However, management, administration and finance staff costs are apportioned on the basis of time spent on each activity.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it is incurred.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets over the value of £1,000 are capitalised with all assets valued at historic cost.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Computers	- 20% to 33.3% straight line
Office furniture and equipment	- 25% straight line
Telephone System	- 10% straight line
Leasehold Improvements	- over the term of the lease

1.8 Leasing

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Assets held under finance leases, which are leases where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the asset have passed to the charity, are capitalised in the balance sheet and are depreciated over their useful lives. The capital elements of future obligations under leases are included as liabilities in the balance sheet. The interest element of the rental obligation is charged to the consolidated statement of financial activities over the period of the lease and represents a constant

proportion of the balance of capital repayments outstanding.

1.9 Investments

Investments held as Fixed Assets are revalued at mid-market value at the Balance Sheet date and the gain or loss taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

Gains and Losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sale proceeds and opening market values (purchase date if later). Gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the market value at year end and the opening market value (or purchase date if later).

1.10 Pensions

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution by the charity on behalf of the employees to a Stakeholder Pension Scheme or other designated Personal Pension Scheme payable by the charity during the year.

1.11 Deferred income

Amounts held as deferred income refer to funds received in the reporting period but specifically held for use in the following financial year due to either:

- Project activity not commencing until the following financial year.
- Funds being restricted for use in a future period.
- Invoiced amounts for services to be provided in the following financial year.

All amounts held as deferred income in the prior year have been released and are recorded within the total incoming resources figure for the current year.

2. FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY

The financial activities shown in the consolidated statement includes those of the charity's subsidiary, Healthwatch Stoke-on-Trent CIO.

A summary of the financial activities undertaken by the charity is set out below, in the format of the charity's own SOFA.

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
<u>Incoming Resources</u>				
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds				
Activities for Generating Funds	675,574	-	675,574	487,291
Investment Income	19,746	-	19,746	20,589
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities				
Grants & Contracts	486,729	762,191	1,248,920	1,768,573
Total incoming resources	1,182,049	762,191	1,944,240	2,276,453
<u>Resources Expended</u>				
Cost of generating funds				
Activities to Generate funds	721,951	-	721,951	870,556
Charitable Activities	676,610	794,673	1,471,283	1,620,675
Governance	10,670	-	10,670	11,645
Total Resources Expended	1,409,231	794,673	2,203,904	2,502,876
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources before Transfers	(227,182)	(32,482)	(259,664)	(226,423)
Transfers	(8,216)	8,216	-	-
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources Before Recognised Gains	(235,398)	(24,266)	(259,664)	(226,423)
Other recognised gains				
Realised loss on disposal of investments	(3,439)	-	(3,439)	7,340
Gain on revaluation of investments	18,607	-	18,607	38,910
Net Movement in Funds	(220,230)	(24,266)	(244,496)	(180,173)
Reconciliation of Funds				
Total funds brought forward	849,692	143,224	992,916	1,173,089
Total funds carried forward	629,462	118,958	748,420	992,916

3. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2015 £	2014 £
Facilities Management & Rechargeable Services	653,974	-	653,974	466,541
Total Income	653,974	-	653,974	466,541

4. GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2015 £	2014 £
ERDF	-	-	-	31,747
Health	-	28,115	28,115	703,317
Local Authority	-	654,969	654,969	403,027
Staffordshire County Council	486,729	53,112	539,841	463,172
Stoke on Trent City Council	-	201,000	201,000	216,000
Other	600	25,995	26,595	32,647
Lottery	-	-	-	134,663
	487,329	963,191	1,450,520	1,984,573

5. RESOURCES EXPENDED

						2015 Total	2014 Total
	Facilities Management £	Rechargeable Services £	Health Projects £	Development £	Governance £	£	£
Staff Costs	134,236	137,047	687,093	277,912	-	1,236,288	1,648,343
Travel Costs	1,008	2,181	20,816	13,331	-	37,336	43,663
Training	474	4,238	3,282	8,798	-	16,792	17,720
Cafe Supplies	24,784	-	-	-	-	24,784	23,347
Office Costs	81,238	38,113	92,761	19,591	-	231,703	427,647
Legal and Professional	10,874	2,795	11,656	4,669	-	29,994	80,550
Advertising & Publicity	894	680	26,174	2,105	-	29,853	18,160
Premises Costs	122,160	-	31,623	7,894	-	161,677	220,131
Development Costs	-	-	13,139	90,784	-	103,923	103,645
Insurance	5,110	427	5,932	305	-	11,774	2,391
Sundry	6,415	-	4,480	-	-	10,895	525
Depreciation	23,901	-	-	-	-	23,901	10,416
AGM Costs	-	-	806	-	1,000	1,806	22,761
Commissioning outcomes	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	10,000
Events	-	-	1,140	15,114	-	16,254	-
Auditors	-	-	1,500	-	8,500	10,000	10,991
Remuneration	-	-	-	-	1,170	1,170	730
Bank Charges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Support Costs	95,961	44,782	217,511	102,358	-	460,612	-
	507,055	230,263	1,127,913	542,861	10,670	2,418,762	2,641,020

5. RESOURCES EXPENDED (continued)

Support Costs are allocated on a per capita basis

Allocation of Support Costs

	Total	Facilities Management	Rechargeable Services	Health Projects	Development
Number of Staff		15	7	34	16
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff Costs	213,236	44,424	20,731	100,695	47,386
Premises Costs	22,545	4,697	2,192	10,646	5,010
Depreciation	6,326	1,318	615	2,987	1,406
Legal & Professional	26,891	5,602	2,614	12,699	5,976
Insurance	3,156	658	307	1,490	701
Advertising & Publicity	2,965	618	288	1,400	659
Events	11,790	2,456	1,146	5,568	2,620
Office Costs	16,000	3,333	1,556	7,556	3,556
Sundry	1,046	218	102	494	232
Management Fees	156,657	32,637	15,231	73,977	34,813
	<u>460,612</u>	<u>95,961</u>	<u>44,782</u>	<u>217,511</u>	<u>102,358</u>

6. NET INCOMING/OUTGOING RESOURCES

	Group		Charity	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	£	£	£	£
Net incoming/outgoing resources are stated after charging;				
Depreciation and other amounts written off				
tangible assets	30,227	10,416	30,227	10,416
Auditor's remuneration	10,000	10,000	8,500	7,000
	<u>40,227</u>	<u>20,416</u>	<u>38,727</u>	<u>17,416</u>

7. EMPLOYEES

	Group		Charity	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	No	No	No	No
The average monthly numbers of FTE employees during the year were:				
Direct charitable activities	56	54	51	54
Generating Funds	6	11	6	6
Management and administration	7	4	7	4
	<u>69</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>64</u>

8. EMPLOYMENT COSTS

	Group		Charity	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	£	£	£	£
Wages and Salaries	1,444,571	1,440,986	1,338,000	1,369,400
Social Security Costs	114,666	118,448	105,453	111,874
Pension Costs	62,334	73,745	58,181	69,953
Temporary and Seconded Staff	7,541	10,258	7,541	5,692
	<u>1,629,112</u>	<u>1,643,437</u>	<u>1,509,175</u>	<u>1,556,919</u>

No employee earned more than £60,000 per annum.

9. TRUSTEES' EMOLUMENTS

VAST Services (1920)

Neither trustees nor any person connected with them has received or is due to receive any remuneration for the year directly or indirectly from the charity's funds. Small incidental payments were made for travel costs incurred for attending meetings on behalf of the charity.

Healthwatch Stoke-on-Trent CIO

Saltbox received a total of £10,000 in relation to the time spent by their Chief Executive undertaking Healthwatch related activities.

10. PENSION COSTS

The group contributes to defined contribution pension schemes. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the charity in independently administered funds. The pension charge contributions payable by the group are £76,298 (2014: £77,537). Group contributions totalling £2,256 (2014: £13,147), including employees' contributions and amounts in respect of previous years were payable to funds at the end of the year and are included in creditors.

11. FIXED ASSETS

Group and charity	Telephone System	Computers	Office Furniture & Equipment	Leasehold Improvements	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2014	40,500	187,428	138,380	-	366,308
Additions	56,441	22,047	13,215	282,522	374,225
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2015	96,941	209,475	151,595	282,522	740,533
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2014	20,793	181,831	133,453	-	336,077
Charge for the year	12,104	4,155	7,110	6,858	30,227
On disposal	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2015	32,897	185,986	140,563	6,858	366,304
Net book values					
At 31 March 2015	64,044	23,489	11,032	275,664	374,229
At 31 March 2014	19,707	5,597	4,927	-	30,231

12. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Group and Charity	Fixed Interest £	Cash £	Listed Investments £	2015 Total £	2014 Total £
Market value brought forward	154,636	9,963	513,500	678,099	614,167
Add: additions to investments at cost	12,592	399,334	11,110	423,036	83,588
Less: disposals at carrying value	(92,511)	(403,262)	(290,803)	(786,576)	(58,566)
Add/(less): net gain/(loss) on revaluation	(982)	-	19,589	18,607	38,910
Market value as at 31 March 2015	73,735	6,035	253,396	333,166	678,099
Historic cost at 31 March 2015	72,214	6,035	178,067	256,316	529,301
	Held in UK	Held Outside UK	2015 Total		
Investments listed on the stock exchange	144,477	76,644	221,121		
Other investments	92,670	19,375	112,045		
	237,147	96,019	333,166		

13. DEBTORS	Group		Charity	
	2015	2014	2015 £	2014 £
Trade debtors	172,564	136,250	171,964	136,250
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	23,434	12,300
Prepayment and accrued income	23,123	18,391	20,243	17,541
	195,687	154,641	215,641	166,091

14. CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	Group		Charity	
	2015	2014	2015 £	2014 £
Trade creditors	132,593	36,068	108,880	34,951
Other taxes and social security costs	28,012	28,136	28,012	28,136
Other creditors	81,511	103,473	81,511	103,473
Accruals	23,726	46,549	23,726	42,649
Held for Healthwatch Stoke-on-Trent CIO	-	-	79,016	73,607
Deferred income	123,184	-	110,208	-
	389,026	214,226	431,353	282,816

15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Group

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Capital Funds £	Total Funds £
Fund Balance at 31st March 2014	849,726	200,324	6	1,050,056
Net Movement in Funds	(220,230)	(59,033)	-	(279,263)
Fund Balance at 31st March 2015	629,496	141,291	6	770,793
as represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	374,229	-	-	374,229
Investments	333,166	-	-	333,166
Net current assets	(77,899)	141,291	6	63,398
	629,496	141,291	6	770,793

15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (continued)

Charity

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Capital Funds £	Total Funds £
Fund Balance at 31st March 2014	849,692	143,218	6	992,916
Net Movement in Funds	(220,230)	(24,266)	-	(244,496)
Fund Balance at 31st March 2015	629,462	118,952	6	748,420
as represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	374,229	-	-	374,229
Investments	333,166	-	-	333,166
Net current assets	(77,933)	118,952	6	41,025
	629,462	118,952	6	748,420

16. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Group	31-Mar-14 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers & Gains £	31-Mar-15 £
General Fund	576,661	1,161,140	1,388,322	6,952	356,431
Designated Funds:					
Business Development					
Role	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
Community					
Accountancy	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
Development Fund	60,000	-	-	-	60,000
Merrial Street Designated					
Fund	13,065	-	-	-	13,065
	849,726	1,161,140	1,388,322	6,952	629,496

Charity	31-Mar-14 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers & Gains £	31-Mar-15 £
General Fund	576,627	1,182,049	1,409,231	6,952	356,397
Designated Funds:					
Business Development					
Role	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
Community					
Accountancy	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
Development Fund	60,000	-	-	-	60,000
Merrial Street Designated					
Fund	13,065	-	-	-	13,065
	849,692	1,182,049	1,409,231	6,952	629,462

16. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)

Purpose of Designated Unrestricted Funds:

The Business Development Role Fund is designated to allow for the recruitment of a Sales Person plus publicity and events to increase the number of organisations using VAST's income generating services.

The Community Accountancy designation is to develop and expand accountancy services both geographically and financially.

The Dudson Centre Management & Contingency fund is designated to allow for the centre falling below 100% occupancy.

The Development Fund is a reserve designated to fund new sources of income and the development of services.

The Merrial Street Fund is for the upkeep of the Newcastle Office and to develop our services within Newcastle under Lyme.

17. RESTRICTED FUNDS Group	31-Mar-14	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	31-Mar-15
	£	£	£		£
Health	22,782	28,115	40,243	-	10,654
Children, Family & Parenting Services	69,669	-	34,699	-	34,970
Social Enterprise and Strategic Development projects	-	708,081	671,252	-	36,829
Healthwatch	57,140	201,000	235,767	-	22,373
Other Restrictred Projects	50,733	25,995	48,479	8,216	36,465
	<u>200,324</u>	<u>963,191</u>	<u>1,030,440</u>	<u>8,216</u>	<u>141,291</u>

17. RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued) Charity	31-Mar-14	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	31-Mar-15
	£	£	£		£
Health	22,782	28,115	40,243		10,654
Children, Family & Parenting Services	69,669	-	34,699		34,970
Local Authority	-	708,081	671,252		36,829
Other Restrictred Projects	50,767	25,995	48,479	8,216	36,499
	<u>143,218</u>	<u>762,191</u>	<u>794,673</u>	<u>8,216</u>	<u>118,952</u>

17. RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)

Purpose of restricted funds:

The Health related projects use money from the PCT to fund the Strategic Development Worker for Health and the Single Point of Access

The Local Authority fund pertains to the Lifestyle Programme which VAST run on behalf of the city council to encourage awareness and improvements in lifestyle, and the Stoke development fund.

The Children, Family & Parenting Services Fund includes several engagement services and the Parent Support projects.

The Healthwatch fund relates to specific delivery of services by Healthwatch Stoke-on-Trent CIO.

The Other Restricted Projects Funds pertain to a variety of development services including social enterprise.

18. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

Capital Commitments

There were no capital commitments at the balance sheet date.

Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2015 the group and charity had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows;

Group and charity

	2015 £	2014 £
Land and Buildings		
Expiring within two to five years	10,050	-
Other assets		
Expiring within one year	2,736	16,872
Expiring within two to five years	14,371	54,598

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

VAST was one of two members of the Staffordshire Community Foundation during the year.

During the year VAST provided services to the Foundation of £26,880 (2014: £44,862) in respect of these services. The balance owed from the Foundation at the year-end was £999 (2014: £6,747).

Helen Russell (a trustee of VAST) provided the project management for Eastgate Street through her Organisation "Projects Alive Ltd". The contract was awarded after a tender process and payments were made to Projects Alive Ltd on commercial terms by way of invoice.

In total for the year the charges from Projects Alive was £10,337 and the balance due to Projects Alive Ltd by VAST at 31st March 2015 was £1,340

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (continued)

VAST is one of two trustees of Healthwatch Stoke-on-Trent CIO. The activities of Healthwatch are consolidated into these financial statements.

During the year the following transactions took place between VAST and Healthwatch:

Healthwatch incurred recharge costs of £152,563 from VAST in respect of staff costs, promotional costs, premises costs and other charitable activities. Healthwatch paid VAST a management fee of £21,600 as per the contract with Stoke-on-Trent City Council. At 31 March 2015 Healthwatch owed VAST £23,434 (2014: £12,300) in respect of these services and VAST owed Healthwatch £79,016 (2014 £73,607) in respect of monies held on their behalf.

Saltbox are a trustee of Healthwatch Stoke on Trent. During the year Saltbox were paid £72,225 in relation to work carried out for VAST.

20. CONTROL RELATIONSHIP

The charity is controlled by the trustees.