

Jan Wilson (Chair)

After leaving university I joined the County Clerk and Chief Executive's Dept at Staffs CC before changing direction for the teaching profession. On retirement a chance meeting between my husband and the Chief Officer of Chase CVS led to me being 'volunteered' as a Trustee, representative on Scio, TLI Champion, TLI Steering Group, Support Staffordshire Development Group and finally the Support Staffordshire Board. Throughout my working life I have developed research skills, administrative good practice and the ability to prioritise, whilst dealing with truculent teenagers certainly honed skills of conflict resolution!

Working with young people also raised awareness of the social, economic, health and aspirational issues which affect families and communities, bringing me into contact with numerous agencies and charities trying to address these problems. I was

particularly interested in the support available for child carers who sacrifice their childhood and often their education and future for the sake of their parents.

For me being a part of Support Staffordshire means being able to support these front line organisations in their work of facilitating better community engagement, access to services, health and well being and economic prosperity. What could be more challenging or rewarding than that?

Elaine Day

I have volunteered substantially at the University Hospital of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust (UHDB), and former Burton Hospitals Trust; pre- and post-merger, for 11 years and gained enormous insight and knowledge of the role, remaining passionate, focussed, positive and determined throughout. During this time I have been a staff (volunteer) governor and more recently the appointed VCSE Governor.

The impact of the NHS on all we do in communities can never be underestimated but we need to continually develop a more shared role across all aspects of society to sustain a partnership that is both real and sustainable.

Prior to volunteering, my 30-year career in Education, ultimately as a Headteacher of an aged 3-11 Foundation Primary School, enables me to bring a substantial skill set to the table. I communicate, read and understand vast quantities both informational and data led. I work with dedication and passion. I understand all aspects of confidentiality; a blue-sky thinker but also a collaborative worker. I know about the commitment necessary in time and energy and appreciate the need to use strategic thinking alongside a myriad of leadership skills to achieve agreed objectives and successful outcomes.

I am passionate about both the NHS and the wider interactions of people and groups in my local community and would find it an honour to continue to serve in any capacity that meets these personal goals. In Support Staffordshire I see an avenue to do just that; it will be both an honour and a continued road to lifelong learning which I endorse fully!

Emma Chester



I have lived in the Staffordshire Moorlands nearly all of my life, grew up in Waterhouses and attended school in Leek. I moved to Manchester in 2008 to study Classical Studies and Ancient Greek Literature at the University of Manchester, and graduated with both my undergraduate and postgraduate degrees there. I remained in the city to work at the Manchester Institute of Biotechnology and Chemistry Department for the University, and received the "*Making a Difference*" and "*Better World*" awards during my time there. However, longing for the countryside again, I moved back to the Staffordshire Moorlands in 2016 and settled in the beautiful village of Flash.

My husband and I founded our family run groundworks and excavation business upon moving to Flash, and I also worked at JCB Landpower until 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic had other plans for my career. I joined the family business on a full time, self-employed basis just as our 5-year battle on the waiting list for PGD IVF treatment was finally approved. Having a child, not only during the pandemic but in general, made me aware of the support rural communities need with regards to community initiatives. I quickly volunteered as a committee member for Flash Village Hall in November 2021, and soon became both a Secretary and Trustee of this fantastic facility. In February 2023, I joined the Advisory Board for OUTSIDE Arts, which is a rural community arts programme for the Staffordshire Moorlands. In January 2025, I was elected as a councillor for Quarnford Parish Council and finally, in the same year, I was asked if I would be interested in joining the Board of Directors for Support Staffordshire, to which the answer was a resounding "yes".

It has been such a great feeling giving back to the Staffordshire Moorlands over the years, and I am thrilled to have now been given the opportunity to give back to the county of Staffordshire as well.

Ian North



Ian has extensive knowledge and experience of the private, voluntary and statutory sectors and has been the CEO of East Staffordshire Family Support Service – Harvey Girls – Dads4Dads for the last 12 years.

With a wide range of experience of strategic, operation and financial management and a clear understanding of housing and public policy issues, Ian is action and results orientated and demonstrates an ability to develop relationships, networks and systems to achieve change. He is passionate about making a difference to the lives of individuals, families and communities.

Ian also sits on the Board of a number of smaller charities and believes good governance should be at the heart of every well-run charity. He has held the Chair position at the following organisations:

West London YMCA , Homes for Northumberland; Three Valleys Housing in Derbyshire, and Trent and Dove Housing, based in Burton. Ian was elected to the National Council of YMCAs' Board of Trustees in 2016 - 2019 and in 2009 was Awarded the Housing Heroes Inspirational Board Member of the Year.

Jon Everett



A relative newcomer to the Third Sector, I served the first 18 years of my career in the military, mostly in commando and intelligence roles. After leaving in 2005, I worked with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on the EU/ASEAN Mission in Indonesia following the South-East Asian tsunami, before taking up a consultancy appointment in the United Arab Emirates. Since then, I have been fortunate to have led a Middle East consulting company, served as Managing Director for UK manufacturing companies Ultra Electronics PMES in Rugeley and the Barden Corporation in Plymouth, and held the position of President Industrial UK & Ireland for Schaeffler GmbH.

I transitioned into the charitable sector when the pandemic hit, serving with REACT Disaster Response and the Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership, coordinating stakeholder engagement across the Midlands in particular and England in general. before taking on the role of Director Business Development and External Affairs for the UK Community Foundations. It was during this time that I became aware of the valuable work of Support Staffordshire. In my current role I am the Managing Director for LoneStar Group and serve as a mentor for SSAFA.

I was delighted to be asked to join the Board of Support Staffordshire and the opportunity to give back to the County that has become my home. I am hoping that my diverse experience in both the private and public sectors can help benefit the Board and contribute to the continued success of Support Staffordshire.

Mark Forrester

I've had a long association with the voluntary and community sector having spent 5 years working for a national youth charity, and 15 years at Voluntary Action Stoke-on-Trent (VAST) - 10 years as its Chief Executive. In 2003 I joined the statutory sector as the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Strategic Partnership Manager and subsequently Head of Communities at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council/High Peak Borough Council. I had responsibility for leading the Council's work with the voluntary sector including the management of our contracts and grants programmes, community safety, climate change, equality and diversity, and a range of community projects. I retired in August 2021.

Inevitably my work at VAST meant that I developed familiarity with the whole range of voluntary and community sector organisations: large and small, formal and informal. I served at senior board level on the many formal multiagency partnerships on economic and social regeneration, community safety, environment, health and social care. VAST developed considerably in my time as CEO, acting as the lead agency for a number of Government programmes in the City (Sure Start Blurton, Children's Fund, Neighbourhood Renewal Fund) and I initiated the development and lead the move to the Dudson Centre. My work in Staffordshire Moorlands gave me insight into the challenges faced by rural communities and an opportunity to develop relations and support the voluntary sector from the other side of the partnership.

I believe in the value of the voluntary and community sector and the critical role it plays; I have a good understanding of the challenges faced and have constantly been inspired by the commitment, innovation and energy of the groups and people I meet.

Thomas Guilbert-Newell



I am a young adult currently working in sustainability in the local government in Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough, focused on reducing emissions, caring for the natural environment and working with local people. I have a passion for a more sustainable and equitable society for all, through environmental, social and economic action. I was previously a trustee and officer of Keele University Student's Union, where I created valuable partnerships with local community organisations and supported over 150 student societies and their members with a range of events, fundraisers and campaigns. At Keele University I received my Bachelors of Science degree in The Environment and Sustainability which has given me a sturdy expertise in everything sustainability

from the reduction of emissions, the recovery of our natural environment and the collaboration with local people. Throughout my life, I have been engaged with the local community and volunteering from leading my high school's Environmental Society to logging 500+ hours at Keele University litter picking, fundraising, donating and creating events allowing me to understand the challenges that local voluntary groups face. My passion in this sector for a more sustainable future for people and the planet derives from my upbringing in Washington State, a region full of people working together, expansive forests, lakes, rivers, mountains and wildlife. I have seen first hand how Climate Change can impact our environmental and societal stability through forest fires, flooding and much more which is why it's so important we embed sustainable action into everything we do. I have joined Support Staffordshire as a Trustee of the Board to further collaboratively work in creating a more sustainable environment for all Staffordshire residents and for a healthy and safe county.