STAFFS CAN

12th December 2023

What we focused on at Staffs CAN

What is Staffs CCOG?

Speed Networking & Playful Research

New Year and New Opportunities

Staffs CAN Review

What we did

Twenty-Four people came to this Staffs CAN with a mix of community members, and representatives from across the community.
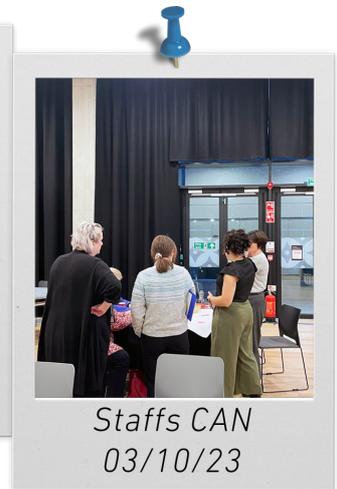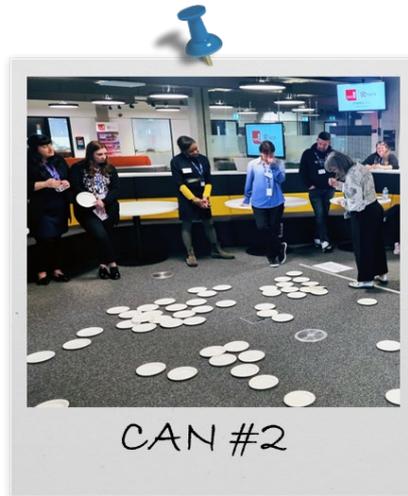
This Staffs CAN offered an opportunity for people to reflect on the first 12 months of Staffs CAN and what it has done who it has brought together. This workshop also introduced Staffordshire University's Connected Communities Staff Operations Group (Staffs CCOG).

People that came to Staffs CAN also took part in a range of activities, starting with a speed networking opportunity to connect with a range of people from across the county. This was followed by a consultation led by the team from Appetite, Conversations about the upcoming Raising Voices: Taking Action Project and a final look at the Connected Communities Evaluation Report.

The session concluded with a look to the future, and what is coming next from Connected Communities at Staffordshire University, including updates from the Public Engagement and Research (PEaR) Team.

The first 12 months of Staffs CAN

CAN Launch 2022

CAN #2

CAN #3 11/7/23

Staffs CAN 03/10/23

This Staffs CAN started by reflecting on what has happened in the first 12 months of it starting. Staffs CAN has brought together a range of community members, community organisations, charities, and members of staff from Staffordshire University.
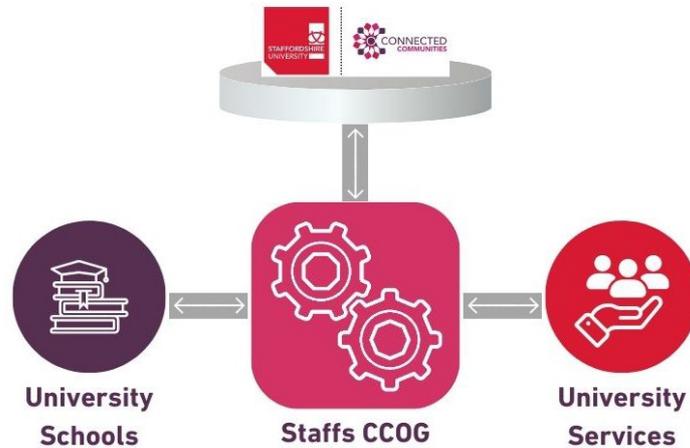
What happened at Staffs CAN in 2023?

Staffs CAN April 2023
Staffs CAN July 2023

Staffs CAN October 2023

Staffordshire University's Connected Communities Staff Operations Group (Staffs CCOG)

The Connected Communities Staff Operations Group connects and supports Connected Communities work from across the university. The group allows members of staff to build capacity and support for their work through connectivity.

It also connects services and schools from across the university, to co-ordinate the activity and delivery of connected communities work at Staffordshire University.

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Speed Networking

One of the benefits of Staffs CAN is meeting new people and building networks. We wanted to take some time and focus on this during this Staffs CAN. People in attendance took time to be able to speak to as many people in the room as possible during a 30-minute slot.

Public Manifesto for Research- Treasure Map Giant Boardgame

As part of Staffordshire University's commitment to the public's engagement in locally relevant research, throughout 2024 and beyond the Public Engagement and Research (PEaR) Team will be collaborating with communities from across Staffordshire to talk about the kinds of research they would like to see that can make impact for them. Working with a Student Intern, the PEaR Team have developed a giant treasure map to help support communities engage in conversations about research, in a playful and accessible way.

Staffs CAN piloted the game by playing it and answering the questions linked to improving it. The Treasure Map activity is designed so that a range of diverse questions could be used alongside it, meaning that it is flexible in how it incorporates ideas. With this flexible approach it is hoped that the game can enable a range of people to engage in discussion thanks to its accessible nature.

More information about The Public Manifesto for Research will be available throughout 2024. If you're interested to find out more please contact connectedcommunities@staffs.ac.uk

Appetite Consultation- What art would people like to see locally?

As a consortium partner to Appetite, we were delighted to host their consultation that asked people at Staffs CAN have their say about what artforms they know Appetite have brought to Stoke-on-rent and Newcastle Under Lyme and what people would like to see in the future. Potential options included literature, visual art, digital, festival, and performing arts,

Additionally, the team from appetite ran two other consultations to gather people's thoughts about arts and culture activities and opportunities.

The information from this will be used to help inform what Appetite provide in North Staffordshire moving forward.

Raising Voices: Taking Action

Raising Voices: Taking Action is led by a mixed group of people with lived and learnt experiences of poverty. The group includes All the Small Things CIC, Expert Citizens CIC and Staffordshire University.

The project follows on from previous projects Get Talking Hardship and Raising Voices.

Raising Voices: Taking Action brings people together in Stoke-on-Trent.

- to talk about what causes poverty, and what makes it worse.
- to build our power to take action to tackle poverty.

We hope that through a united effort, people in diverse communities can join forces to deal with the causes of poverty in Stoke-on-Trent.

Raising Voices: Taking Action will also think about the set-up of a Poverty Truth Commission in Stoke-on-Trent.

To find out more about the project please contact a member of the project team:

- Penny Vincent, All the Small Things CIC, allthesmallthingscic@gmail.com
- Phil Parkes, Expert Citizens CIC, volunteer@expertcitizens.org.uk
- Ryan Fox, Staffordshire University, Ryan.fox@staffs.ac.uk

Connected Communities Evaluation Report

In October 2023, Staffs CAN were asked to review and make recommendations against the first Connected Communities Evaluation Report. At this Staffs CAN people were again asked to review and contribute to the final edits and also get an idea of what the report would look like before the final version is published.

The purpose of the Connected Communities Evaluation is to understand our collective impact as an engaged civic university. The Connected Communities Evaluation Report outlines and evaluates some of the community activities that have been delivered by staff from across the University.

Young can find out more about the evaluation from the last Staffs CAN summary.

New Year and New Opportunities

At the end of this Staffs CAN The PEaR Team outlined their plans and potential activities for the coming year, which included:

- More Staffs CAN workshops
- The Development of The Manifesto for Research
- Continuing to develop a Young Community Research Network with SCVYS as part of the 'Know Your Place' Project.
- Launching and running the second cohort of the Participatory Action Research (PAR) Programme with staff and students from Staffordshire University.

Community Spotlight

The Connected Communities Newsletter asks for contributions from communities across Staffordshire, to spotlight the work that they do and what they have got coming up that people can get involved with or support.

If you would like to shine a spotlight on your community, email connectedcommunities@staffs.ac.uk