



## WE WOULD LOVE TO BE ONE OF YOUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

### Who Are We?

Stone Community Hub (“the Hub”) is an independent registered charity dedicated to improving the lives of residents of Stone and its surrounding villages by providing support and advice in times of need. We provide a place to meet and discuss opportunities and concerns in a warm, supportive environment. Everything we do is in pursuit of our objective “**Making Lives Better**”

### What Do We Do?

Our activities fall into 3 main areas:

- (1) combating social isolation – drop-in centre, people to talk to, crafting & refreshments
- (2) reducing poverty and its effects – advice centre, job club, family law clinic, money advice & free food parcels
- (3) providing a safe and supportive environment for the young people of Stone to have fun, meet other young people and participate in the activities on offer – Stone Youth Café youth club\*

\*The only open-access youth service in the area, following cutbacks which saw the closure of Stone Youth Centre.

**Most of us will, at times, struggle for one reason or another and the Centre is a lifeline for many.**

The Hub welcomes more than 200 visitors each month and the Stone Youth Café runs a weekly session:

- Once a month Pickerings & Butters provide a free drop-in to see the solicitor service
- During school holidays we offer weekly sessions of parent /child craft or cookery
- In addition, on an ad hoc basis, the following groups have access to the room so the people/families they are supporting can be helped:
  - Local Support Team (for “team around the family” meetings)
  - Stafford and Rural Homes
  - Endeavour Youth Club (for an overspill room for their Friday night group)
  - Parenting Support Worker

We have 2 experienced staff, who officially work part-time but who also contribute time and effort well beyond their formal employment roles. Our youth worker is contracted on a self-employed basis.

The 7 individuals on our Board of Trustees have wide experience in the areas of social work, teaching, sport and business.

We benefit from the support and advice of our Patron, Viscount Hugo Sandon. One of the highlights of 2016 was a very successful Burns Night held in January at Sandon Hall thanks to the support of Hugo and his family. We look forward to continuing our relationship during the coming years.

Last but not least, without our 15 volunteers we would not be able to open or operate as we do. Our volunteers:

Make coffee & tea, answer the phone, talk to the people who come in, help with the youth café, look after our IT systems, help repair people's computers, help people with their cv's, give interview advice and practice, give people lifts, help with cookery groups, unpack and sort food donations, help with admin, run craft sessions and promote what we do.

### Rising Demand: Our Statistics August 2015 – July 2016 (August 2014 – July 2015)

	Daytime drop in	Youth Café
Footfall	2,703 (755)	181 (45)
Individual Clients	454 (214)	31 (18)
Total of New Clients	270 (119)	17 (5)
Number of 1:1 Help Sessions	419 (175)	n/a
Volunteer sessions	303 (95)	90 (77)

### Our Objectives

**In the short-term**, we aim to bed down our sustainable funding strategy to continue providing existing services to meet **rising demand**.

We have the financial and practical support of Stone Town Council (including a regular Liaison Group to identify local issues and develop solutions), a successful and growing membership scheme, strong support from local organisations, and an active events-led fundraising plan.

January	Burns Night Dinner at Sandon Hall
April	Quiz Night at Granvilles
July	Afternoon Tea at Sandon Hall
September	Sponsored Bag Pack at Morrisons
December	Santa Sleigh, Stone Christmas Market

Our supporters:

Rotary  
 Stone Festival  
 Stone Bonfire Committee  
 Stone Baptist Church  
 A Little Bit of Stone  
 Stone Women's Guild  
 Stone Inner Wheel  
 Walton Priory PTA  
 Stone Master Marathoners  
 Messy Church (St Michaels)  
 Barclays  
 Panda Press  
 BT

We are also building a healthy track record and pipeline in grant applications – in 2016 we have received funding from the Staffordshire High Sheriff Fund, Safer Communities CIC (part of Staffordshire Fire & Rescue), Stafford Borough Council, Staffordshire County Council's Local Community Fund and most recently the WH Smith Community Fund. We are actively looking at adding more regional/national funders.

**Longer-term** we want to **expand** those services:

- (1) add afternoon sessions
  - some in partnership with other local charities and service providers, e.g. “friendship sessions” for the isolated elderly with the support of local psychology services
- (2) deliver services directly to those in need: either by running them elsewhere in the area (e.g. village halls) or by arranging transport for clients to visit us in Stone
- (3) add another Stone Youth Café session
- (4) develop and deliver training opportunities to our Stone Youth Café attendees on topics such as first aid (great for babysitters) and volunteering

### How Can You Help?

We would love you to be one of our community partners.

We give you	You give us
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A truly local community partner</li> <li>• Experienced and committed pool of staff, trustees, volunteers and clients/Youth Café attendees to participate in fundraising efforts</li> <li>• Volunteering and training opportunities for your staff – at our events, or as part of our day-to-day services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognised brand as a supporter</li> <li>• Opportunities for fundraising activities at your premises</li> <li>• Access to your grant scheme</li> </ul>

If you would like someone from SCH to speak to you or more information on our services please contact us.

Yours Sincerely,

Karen Wardell  
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