



Council and district news

Ditch the Blade campaign



Staffordshire Police are relaunching Ditch the Blade campaign which highlights the partnership work that takes place across the county to tackle knife crime.

They will be targeting young people through social media advertising to encourage them to seek help if they are being pressured, or feel that they need to carry a knife.

Key messages for the campaign are as follows :

Messages aimed at young people

- Most young people don't carry knives, it's not normal behaviour.
- When you carry a knife, you could risk 4 years in prison, being a victim of crime, your future employment and your ability to travel to other countries.
- Knife crime doesn't just affect the person who carries the knife, it can also affect your friends and family.
- You may think it keeps you safer but carrying can put you in danger as your own knife could be used on you if things escalate.
- Don't feel pressured to carry a knife, get support if you need it.

Messages aimed at parents/carers

- Start a conversation and let your young person know that carrying a knife isn't normal behaviour – 99% of young people don't carry (national figure from Fearless).
- Support agencies can help you, you're not being disloyal by getting support if you think your child is carrying a knife/involved in knife crime. Please reach out for support.
- Spot the signs – understand common signs of carrying a knife/involvement with knife crime, and don't stereotype as any child from any background could be carrying.

- We're working with partners to tackle knife crime in Staffordshire, using a multiagency approach to tackle this issue.

You can find more details on the campaign website: [#DitchTheBlade | Staffordshire Police](#)

Have your say!

Public consultation is now well underway on the latest stage of our Local Plan review.

The Local Plan sets the planning framework for the district and includes sites for housing and employment, and policies to decide planning applications.

The strategy has been revised following changes by the government to national planning policy in late 2023, and updated evidence.

The consultation runs until midday, Friday, May 31, 2024. The Publication Plan, [FAQs](#) and supporting documents can be viewed at [Local Plan Review | South Staffordshire District Council \(sstaffs.gov.uk\)](#)

We are holding a number of in person consultation events and two online Q&A sessions. Our next in person event is at the Haling Dene Centre in Penkridge on Tuesday, May 7 and you can book a slot by calling 01902 696423.

Our first online Q&A session is scheduled for the following day, Wednesday, May 8, starting at 6pm. There is no need to register, anyone can join the meeting, just click on the link under the Consultation Events tab here: [Local Plan Review | South Staffordshire District Council \(sstaffs.gov.uk\)](#)

All comments must be made in writing before 12 noon on May 31, 2024.



Menopause Meet Up



Are you a woman experiencing menopause symptoms?

Are you a husband or partner of a menopausal woman, and you want to understand more about this life change?

Are you curious about the menopause in general and what it means?

Then come along to an empowering and informative Menopause Meet-Up.

Break the taboo and share experiences and tips, and support each other through this phase.

The Menopause Meet-Up is at Bilbrook Village Hall, on every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6.30pm.

Thank you to [South Staffordshire Council](#) for funding the meetings.

Everyone is welcome 

Community Foundation administering grants

VCSE Grants (Supportive Communities and Better Health Staffordshire) have launched a new scheme in April.

Community Foundation Staffordshire (CFS) are administering the Grants.

Funds are intended to help organisations to:

- Support, sustain and/or build on Supportive Communities outcomes (thematic)
- Support, sustain and/or build on Better Health Staffordshire outcomes (thematic)
- Initiatives which promote mental health and wellbeing through at least 2 of the 5 Ways to Wellbeing
- Building skills, knowledge, and confidence around self-help or in finding help with mental and emotional wellbeing
- To support costs that are associated with the above outcomes but not limited to: training, equipment, promotional activity, venue hire, staffing or volunteer expenses



We are looking for projects that:

- Enable mental wellbeing and the promotion of healthy lifestyles as the norm
- Prevent ill health & promote self-care to enable individuals to be independent and live in their own homes for as long as possible
- Reduce loneliness and social isolation
- Increase access to affordable healthy, nutritious food
- Increase access to opportunities for people to 'move more'
- Supporting healthy aging

Grants are available from £3,000 to £25,000.

This programme is for over 18's and families.

The timetable is as follows:

- **29/04/2024** – Scheme to be launched
- **31/05/2024** – Closing date for applications to be submitted.
- **wc 24/06/2024** – Successful applicants informed/funds distributed.
- **02/09/2024** – 2nd round of funding to commence.

Further details and the application form to the VSCE (Supportive Communities and Better Health Staffordshire) grants can be found here [VCSE Grants – Supportive Communities & Better Health](#)

Vacancies



- **Waste Management and Customer Support Officer** - closing May 15th
- **Relief Leisure Assistant (Penkridge Leisure Centre)** - closing May 13th
- **Planning Solicitor** - open closing date
- **Relief Receptionist (Penkridge Leisure Centre)** - closing May 13th

All vacancies can be viewed in full and applied for on our recruitment site:
<https://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/vacancies>

Community Roadshow



The Welfare Services, Creating Brighter Futures team, set out on another leg of their Community Roadshow tour last week.

The team attended the Wombourne Parish Council Community Engagement event on Wednesday evening to showcase their funded training opportunities.

On Thursday, the team hosted yet another successful Skills and Jobs Fair, this time in locality one, Penkridge.

Over 200 local students attended and more than 80 members of the public. Feedback from the 25 employers was very encouraging and attendees rated the event a fantastic score of 4.5 out of 5.

Customer feedback included:

'Deb from Creating Brighter Futures was very helpful made me feel positive and hopeful had lots of helpful ideas and a fresh perspective'

'Came for advice on training opportunities and have had some very helpful information'

'Excellent help and advice'

'Good variety of employers'

'Came regarding business startup info not for employment but was given great advice'

'Helpful staff who gave me some useful information'

'Keep going, do more'

Michelle Kettles, Welfare and Benefit Team Manager stated 'we are working with local employers to fill their vacancies, so it was great to see so many people attend the fair'

Councillor Helen Adams stated "Penkridge Parish Council were pleased to host the Skills and Jobs Fair and are delighted that it was such a well supported and successful event".

To find out where the team will be next, please visit our website www.sstaffs.gov.uk/events or sign up to our welfare services updates <https://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/alerts>

Leisure latest

NEW 'Total Body Walx' Session

As part of South Staffordshire Council's commitment to Health and Wellbeing in the community, a new Total Body Walx sessions is starting soon.

These Walx make every step count!

Total Body walking is a unique mix of walking drills, strength and balance exercises with or without total body walking poles. Delivered by our fully qualified WALX Masters who will teach you how to walk well and help you improve how you look and feel with every step, in sessions that are full of fun and variety.



The Walx will take place every Thursday, starting June 13th from 12pm-1pm. Everyone is welcome – meet at Codsall Community Hub reception (Please wear suitable trainers for flexibility – not walking boots). The Walx are free to attend and Walx poles will be provided however there will be limited places.

For more info and to book your place contact Lisa at lisaembrey@hotmail.com or call 0777 332 6373.

Wolves Soccer Schools



Wolves Soccer School are holding sessions on Tuesday evenings at Wombourne Leisure Centre; Thursday evenings at Penkridge Leisure Centre; and Friday evenings at Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre.

For more information email footballdevelopment@wolves.co.uk or to make a booking, [click here](#)

Wolves Soccer Schools will also be running during May half-term providing 2-day sessions for children in reception to year 7. For full details and to book [click here](#).

Enjoy savings with the new Leisure Advantage Card

Leisure centre users can now sign up and enjoy savings of up to 10% off on individual activities.

Non-members can sign up at their nearest leisure centre at a nominal cost of just £5 for an adult and £2.50 per child with savings then available for an entire year.

For full details, [click here](#).



Gym access for teens



Young people aged 13 years+ can now access the leisure centres gyms as part of the 'Active Youth' scheme. The scheme allows young people to use the gyms at specific supervised times. Alternatively young people can use the gyms at any time when accompanied by a participating parent/guardian.

The leisure centres also offer discounted membership packages for students and apprentices aged 16 years+.

For full details on what's available visit <https://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/sports-and-fitness/activities-children-young-people>

Aspire holiday camps

Aspire Active Camps are available this Whitsun at Codsall and Wombourne Leisure Centres

Dates: May 28th to May 31st

Aspire Active Camps will be offering children's sports-based activities for young people aged 5-14 year olds.

Bookings are already being taken – book before May, 10th for the best possible price.



To find out more, view activity timetables and book, click on the following links:

Wombourne active camps - <https://www.aeg.co.uk/active-camps-wombourne>

Codsall active camps - <https://www.aeg.co.uk/active-camps-codsall>



Wolves Soccer Schools



**PENKRIDGE
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

WOLVES FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

Where: Penkridge Leisure Centre, Cannock Road, Penkridge, ST19 5RX

When: Thursday Evenings

Who: Boys & Girls - Years 2 to 5

Times: 6:00pm - 7:00pm (Reception to Year 3)
7:00pm - 8:00pm (Years 4 & 5)

For more information email footballdevelopment@wolves.co.uk or to make a booking, [click here](#).

Partnership updates

Have your say! 

Click to edit this placeholder text.



Active Travel Team have produced a [survey](#) to help shape walking and wheeling routes across the county. The survey will be focusing on Cheslyn Hay, Great Wyrley, Norton Canes, Rugeley, Burntwood, Brereton, Biddulph, Leek and Kidsgrove.

As part of Green Libraries Week, the Sustrans team will be visiting several libraries to engage with residents who live in each of the areas and encourage them to take part in the survey.

The data collected will help the Active Travel team to understand what improvements are needed for each area to benefit local residents and feed into the Local Transport Plan.

The link to the survey is as follows:

[Have your say on walking in your community | Let's Talk Staffordshire](#)

The survey will close on May 31st.

Stay safe!

A promotional poster for a free alarm service. The top half features a photograph of a woman and a young girl laughing joyfully. In the top left corner, there are logos for "South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership" (with the tagline "Working to make South Staffordshire Safer" and email "communitysafety@stcsh.gov.uk") and "South Staffordshire Council". The text "STAY SAFE THIS SUMMER" is written in large, bold, white capital letters across the middle. Below this, a purple banner contains the text: "Collect your FREE alarm from Codsall Community Hub from Monday, 22 April, to Friday, 30 August, between 9am and 5pm (or contact your local parish council)". At the bottom, another purple banner states: "You must be a resident of South Staffordshire."/>

South Staffordshire
Community Safety
Partnership
"Working to make South Staffordshire Safer"
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South Staffordshire Council

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Questions?

[Contact Us](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)