

Raising Voices, Changing Minds, Ending Poverty

Participant Information Sheet

I would like to invite you to participate in this Stoke on Trent Hardship Commission project being carried out by Staffordshire University, All The Small Things, and Expert Citizens. Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please see the project contact details if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

The project aims to:

Raise Voices of people living with hardship by valuing their stories, supporting their engagement, and involving them as equal partners in addressing hardship in Stoke-on-Trent.

Change minds by raising public awareness through a creative and impactful social media campaign. We will also make information the hardship commission already has more accessible and easier to read.

End Poverty by creating a clearer picture of the impacts of policy decisions on people's experiences and sharing impactful stories with decision-makers to influence change.

You are being invited to take part in this project if you have lived experience or a perspective on hardship and poverty that you wish to tell your story about.

What will taking part involve?

As someone involved in the project you will use your experience or perspectives to contribute to discussions surrounding hardship and poverty in Stoke-on-Trent. This can be done in lots of different creative ways. The activities and sessions you are involved with will collect and record your experiences, which will help to create a clearer picture of the impacts of poverty and hardship in Stoke-on-Trent. The sessions and activities will take place face-to-face, online, and remotely.

The project will use lots of different creative ways of capturing the voices of our local community. These include photography, poetry, a message on a postcard, podcasting, and video stories. The project will also run some in-person and online events so that people get a chance to share their voices and perspectives in lots of different ways.

What are your rights as a participant?

Participation is completely voluntary. You should only take part if you want to and choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. Once you have read the information sheet, please contact us if you have any questions that will help you decide to take part. If you decide to take part we will ask you to sign a consent form and you will be given a copy of this consent form to keep.

We don't see there being any disadvantage in taking part in this project. However, participation in this study may cause emotional distress and anxiety in some individuals, due to the topic of the project.

By taking part in the project you have the opportunity to contribute your story to the wider conversation about hardship and poverty in Stoke-on-Trent, as well as build new relationships and networks.

Our Responsibilities to you

Your data will be processed in accordance with the data protection law and will comply with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR).

The data controller for this project will be Staffordshire University. The University will process your personal data for the purpose of the research outlined above. The legal basis for processing your personal data for research purposes under the data protection law is a 'task in the public interest' You can provide your consent for the use of your personal data in this study by completing the consent form that has been provided to you.

You are free to withdraw at any point of the study, without having to give a reason. Withdrawing from the study will not affect you in any way. You can withdraw your data from the study up until Friday 11th March 2022, after which withdrawal of your data will no longer be possible due to the data having been processed/ anonymised or included as a part of preliminary stages of the project or already committed to the final report or publicity

If you choose to withdraw from the study, we will not retain any information that you have provided us as a part of this study.

Who is the project funded by?

The research is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund through VOICES

Where will the information go?

The information that you contribute to this project will be included in different ways, whether this is through a creative exhibition, as part of the Raising Voices social media campaign, or included as part of a manifesto for change or a final project report. These outputs will be available in the public domain and shared in a physical and digital capacity.

Project Contact Details

If you have any questions or require more information about this study, please contact members of the project team using the following contact details:

- Ryan Fox – Staffordshire University- ryan.fox@staffs.ac.uk
- Lynne Ball - All The Small Things – lynne@allthesmallthings.co.uk
- Phil Parkes- Expert Citizens- volunteer@expertcitizens.org.uk

If this study has harmed you in any way or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the study you can contact the Chair of the Staffordshire University Ethics Committee for further advice and information:

- Dr Tim Horne- Staffordshire University- tim.horne@staffs.ac.uk

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research.

If you have been affected by hardship or poverty, are feeling emotionally distressed, or feel you need additional support for your current situation the following organisations offer advice and support:

<p><u>Samaritans</u> Samaritans are available for anyone struggling to cope and provide a safe place to talk 24 hours a day. Phone: 116 123 Email: jo@samaritans.org</p>	<p><u>Shout</u> Shout is a 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone struggling to cope and in need of immediate help. Text SHOUT to 85258</p>
<p><u>Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank</u> Stoke-on-Trent foodbanks provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis. They are part of a nationwide network of food banks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.</p> <p>To get help in a food crisis due to emergency financial hardship Local Foodbank Helpline- 01782 317942 Monday – Friday 9 am – 2 pm or contact Email- info@stokeontrent.foodbank.org.uk Website- https://stokeontrent.foodbank.org.uk/</p> <p>Help with Hardship helpline- 0808 208 2138</p>	
<p><u>Shelter</u> Shelter helps people with housing needs by providing advice and practical assistance</p> <p>Help Line- 0808 800 4444</p> <p>You can talk to an expert housing adviser if you're in urgent need of housing advice. You should use this line if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have nowhere to sleep, or might be homeless soon • You have somewhere to sleep, but nowhere to call home • You are/could be at risk of harm 	<p><u>FRANK</u> FRANK offers free practical drug advice for adults and children</p> <p>24/7 Helpline- 0300 123 6600</p> <p>For people with hearing impairments, you can Textphone FRANK on 0300 123 1099.</p> <p>Text- 82111</p>
<p><u>Stoke-on-Trent City Council</u> Homeless Tonight- If you have nowhere to stay tonight, we will advise you on the best course of action to take. Please call 01782 233696 (Outside of Office Hours- 01782 234234)</p> <p>Rough Sleepers Team- Free Phone 0800 970 2304</p> <p>Adult Social Care- 0800 561 0015</p>	

Staffordshire Mental Health Helpline

The Staffordshire Mental Health Helpline is for you if you are feeling concerned, worried, stressed, or low, or if you are worried about someone you know. You may be going through a difficult time and feel that you have no one to talk to.

Call FREE 24/7 from landlines and mobile networks on **0808 800 2234**

Text: **07860 022821** (FREE)

Email: Staffordshire.helpline@brighter-futures.org.uk

Affordable Food Stoke

Affordable Food Stoke sells food that is close to or is past its sell-by date to provide everyone with perfectly edible food, at massively reduced prices.

Visit the Store:

77-81 Meaford Drive, Blurton, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 2BB

Email:

affordablefoodstoke@outlook.com

Website:

<http://www.affordablefoodstoke.co.uk/>

Alice Charity

Alice Charity is on a mission to make sure the most vulnerable families across Stoke and Newcastle have access to unconditional love and support.

Alice Charity provides different kinds of support, including Family Support and Emergency Food Supplies. Full list of services here: <https://alicecharity.com/services/>

Call: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm- **01782 627 017**

Email- info@alicecharity.com

Find us- **The Assembly Rooms, 4 Merial Street, Newcastle, ST5 2AD**

Citizens Advice Staffordshire North and Stoke-on-Trent

If you need advice on any issue that is causing you a problem CAB specialise in problems with social security benefits, personal debt, or housing, employment disputes and immigration issues. They also offer specialist help to the victims of crime.

Address: **Citizens Advice Staffordshire North and Stoke**

Advice House, Cheapside, Hanley

Stoke-on-Trent

Staffordshire ST1 1HL

Advice Line: **0808 278 78 76**

Reception: **01782 201234**