Staffordshire Providers Network Ltd

Minutes of the 4th Annual General Meeting

Held on Friday 21st November 2025

At Stafford Rugby Union Football Club, Coopers Park, The County Ground, Blackberry Lane, Stafford, ST16 2TT

Staffordshire Providers Network.

Members in Attendance

Name	Company
Jason Lancaster	Lancaster Learning
Daniel Canavan	Spark Training
Dawn Styles	Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce
Duncan Maydew	North Staffordshire Engineering Group Training Association Ltd
Emma King	Learning Curve Group
Gareth Hassall	Staffordshire Training Services Limited
Gill Durkin	Performance Through People Training
Jenny Scrivens	Stoke-on-Trent College
Majella Cocks	E. Quality Training
Sam Mellor	Acorn Training Ltd
Simon Kitson	Martec Training
Tom Nadin	Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce
Lewis Beeston	Caudwell Children
Yvonne Cope	Stoke-on-Trent College
Tim Edwards	TJE Consulting
Stephen Morris	Keele University
Frances Galland	Burton and South Derbyshire College
Chris Deakin	YMCA North Staffordshire
Sue Gomer	K S Training Limited
Caroline A. Strike	Nacro
Geoff Beadle	Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
Jane Tunnicliff	Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group
Patricia Hicks	CITB
Tina Beeston	Accountancy Teaching Academy
Richard Pemble	OFSTED
Paul Stannard	The Association of Employment and Learning Providers

Staffordshire Providers Network.

Jason Lancaster gave the following speech:

"Good morning, everyone and welcome to the 4th Annual General Meeting of Staffordshire Providers Network. I am extremely happy to see so many representatives from our membership.

Now to start the official business of the meeting

The AGM notice, Annual Accounts, and minutes of the last AGM were sent out by e-mail and have been available on our website since 30th October 2025.

I can now advise you that, In accordance with Article 12.3 of the STAFFORDSHIRE PROVIDERS NETWORK Articles of Association, we have a quorum present and as such we can now proceed to the formal business of the meeting.

A brief explanation of the voting arrangements before we begin; only members of Staffordshire Providers Network may participate in voting. Each member company shall have one vote. When voting please make sure that you provide your full name and your organisation.

The proxy voting deadline on Thursday, 20th November at 12:30 pm, we did not receive any proxy voting instructions from members."

1. MINUTES OF THE 3rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

"I would now ask the meeting to confirm the minutes of the 3rd AGM which was held on Friday 15th November 2024. The minutes for this meeting have been available on our website since 30th October 2025."

- **May I have a proposer please?** Simon Kitson
- **And a seconder please?** Geoff Beadle
- **All those in favour?** All
- **Any against?** None
- **Any abstaining?** None

"That means that the minutes of the 3rd AGM have been approved."

Staffordshire Providers Network.

2. TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRS REPORT

“I want to provide you with an update on national and local policy developments that will have an ongoing effect on members.

The pace and scale of reform across the skills system continues to accelerate, with renewed emphasis on coherence, progression and efficiency.

In an era where collaboration is once again expected and increasingly essential, I want to stress the importance of working collectively to respond to change, share intelligence and align provision to the needs of learners, employers and communities.

By acting together, we can make sure the skills system in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire remains learner-centred, economically relevant and greater than the sum of its parts.

Here are the headline developments I want to draw your attention to:

- Post-16 system reform and white paper direction
- V-Levels (new vocational qualifications framework)
- Level 2 Reform (new tiered qualifications at Level 2 and below)
- English & Maths Reform (greater flexibility and contextualisation)
- Skills England launched; IfATE functions transferred
- Reform of the Apprenticeship Levy → Growth & Skills Levy
- Introduction of “Apprenticeship Units” (modular levy-funded courses)
- Foundation Apprenticeships (from Aug 2025) & reduced minimum duration
- Level 7 apprenticeship funding withdrawal (from Jan 2026)
- Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) timeline confirmed for 2027 launch
- Updated Ofsted apprenticeship intervention policy
- Adult Skills Fund: stronger accountability and local priority alignment
- Taking Teaching Further (2025 guidance) to boost specialist recruitment
- Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire LSIP priority updates (2024–25)
- Staffordshire Employment & Skills Strategy delivery plans (2024/25 & 2025)
- Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire Institute of Technology (opening Sept 2025)
- Devolution uncertainty going forwards
- Capital investment into Staffordshire FE estates
- Continued high standards for Staffordshire providers

Daniel Canavan " A few of our member have reported that early inspections under the new framework have begun. Feedback from pilots and initial reviews shows a positive focus on inclusion but raises concerns about the emphasis on security over best fit. Large organisations, such as colleges, may face challenges in maintaining consistency across extensive student populations."

Jason Lancaster (Chair) "reflected on wider sector developments. He noted progress on the Adult Skills Fund (ASF), with improved clarity but limited funding growth. Adult achievement rates at Level 3 and above remain aligned with national trends, which continues to limit attractiveness for investment and innovation. Teacher recruitment and development were highlighted as ongoing issues, alongside updates on RSIBs, local skills strategies, and the Institute of Technology.

Uncertainty around devolution was discussed, with a call for providers to take a leadership role in shaping future solutions. Next year will focus on implementing major policy changes, requiring agility and collaboration.

No single organisation can meet the ambitions of our people and economy alone, but together we can shape a skills landscape that lifts opportunity and drives growth.

I encourage you to continue strengthening partnerships, aligning curriculum to shared priorities, and presenting a unified, confident skills system to employers and stakeholders. No single organisation can meet the ambitions of our people or our economy alone but together, we can shape a skills landscape that genuinely lifts opportunity and drives growth across Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire."

3. TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2024/2025

"The next item on the agenda is to receive the financial statements, included in the Annual Report and Accounts, for the year ended 31st August 2025 and the reports of the Directors.

We are presenting the Staffordshire Providers Network's Annual Report and Accounts for the year-ended 31st August 2025 sent out to the Members and Non-UK Members on 30th October 2025.

Staffordshire Providers Network ended the year with a surplus of £5,751 which was in line with budget and the Boards expectations.

I would like to highlight the following key elements of the financial statements:

The reserves stand at £31,154 with a bank balance of £36,058. These reserves will help to fund and support STAFFORDSHIRE PROVIDERS NETWORK as we move forward into the next financial year.

Turnover of £16,146 has been raised from membership fees of £15,146 and sponsorship of £1,000. Expenses are mainly administration fees as no staff are directly employed to manage STAFFORDSHIRE PROVIDERS NETWORK.

The financial statements were audited by Geens Accountants and reviewed by Dawn Styles our Company Secretary and the Chamber of Commerce's Head Of Finance.

The financial statements were then reviewed in by Staffordshire Providers Network's Board which in turn approved them prior to their submission to Members.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The filing of the financial statements only takes place once they have been received by you, the members, at this Annual General Meeting.

I am pleased to recommend them to you.

Before I conclude, I would like to ask if there are any questions on the Annual Report and Accounts?

If there are no further questions, I propose that the financial statements of the Company for the year ended 31st August 2025 and the reports of the Directors thereon be received.

- **May I have a proposer please?** Tina Beeston
- **And a seconder please?** Duncan Maydew
- **All those in favour?** All
- **Any against?** None
- **Any abstaining?** None

That means that the accounts have been approved."

"That is the end of the formal business for the Staffordshire Providers Network Limited's 4th Annual General Meeting, and I would like to thank you all for your attendance.

Hopefully you will see that you are part of a dynamic organisation.