



Sandwell Community Information & Participation Service

**WELCOME BACK
SARAH**



Sarah has returned to work following her recent absence. She would like to thank the Board and staff team for all their support whilst on leave, and their continued support as she continues a phased return to work. Sarah said, “everyone has been so kind, and all the well wishes have been heart-warming – I hope to see you all face to face very soon”.

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Sandwell Council Consultation in relation to Disability Facilities Grants

The Council has asked us to remind you that they are consulting around the Disability Facilities Grants. Following extensive discussions internally and externally the policy has been reviewed and can be found here:

<https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/homeimprovementagency>

As part of the current review the policy has been developed into two draft policies one relating to Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy

https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/downloads/file/33927/private_sector_housing_assistance_policy_draft_-_160323

and one relating to a Policy on Adaptations for Disabled Tenants in Council Housing

https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/downloads/download/2993/adaptations_for_disabled_tenants_in_council_housing_policy_draft_-_10-03-23

Both policies are in draft and sets out the offer for Equipment and Adaptations in Sandwell. They would welcome any questions or comments about the draft policies and these can be sent to the Home Improvement Agency via email at Comm_Partnerships@sandwell.gov.uk

Please reference which policy your question and/or comment relates to. Please note that the deadline for your feedback is the **27th April 2023**.

www.scvo.info



Sandwell Council of Voluntary
Organisations – SCVO

0121 525 1127

**FUNDING
HERE**

VISION 2030 AND KING'S CORONATION GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE

6th to 8th May 2023

The King's Coronation 'weekend'

£500 micro grants available

Activities must be
between 1st May
and 31st May 2023

Bringing people
together
across the local
community

You must be:-

A voluntary organisation/group, community organisation/group, tenants/resident group, faith group, most co-operatives and enterprises and most sports organisations

+ Have one or more of the following structures:-

Unincorporated groups (with written constitutions/set of rules), registered charity, company limited by guarantee, Community Interest Company (CIC) limited by guarantee or limited by shares, Community Benefit Society with charitable status, Co-operative

**Telephone SCVO to discuss your
application 0121 525 1127**

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

In November 2022 we were invited to bid for an uplift to our current Digi-Comm project. Funding was made available through the Government Levelling Up fund which aims to:-

- Provide more opportunities for local people through volunteering
 - Expand the pool of volunteers able to provide digital support
 - Enable residents to build their digital confidence
- Establish new opportunities for residents to meet with their neighbours in their own community and thus reduce their social isolation
 - To better utilise facilities within communities
- To provide opportunities for residents to utilise digital skills to access local services ensuring they are better connected

We submitted a bid and were informed in February that we had been successful. The bid will bring in an additional £44,620 for 12 months starting on 1st April 2023.

The additional funding will enable us to pilot the Digi-Comm training approach in new community and residential spaces. It will create a new part time Volunteer Co-Ordinator post to expand the pool of volunteers able to deliver the programme who will recruit train and support volunteers to become digital champions.



SCIPS have now completed delivery of the final two Click & Chat courses funded by our existing Digi Comm programme at the 4 Community Hub in West Bromwich and Brook Street Community Centre in Tipton.

Twelve participants have been guided through content including using a tablet, downloading apps, internet safety, creating an email account and more. In addition three volunteers have completed 'Train the Trainer' courses and have been provided with all the materials and resources to ensure that – coupled with funding we have sourced for infrastructure improvements and broadband costs for 12 months – ongoing delivery can be considered at these venues. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has been involved. (use photos from GoPro – 1 each for 4CH & Brook St).

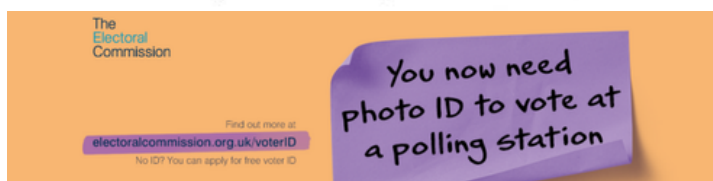
As you will know, we have also been successful in our application to extend our Digi Comm programme for another 3 years and we are planning with partners at St Albans to commence delivery in the coming months. We are currently developing a good practice guide which will help inform this, based on the learning from our experience to date. This guide, along with information on future courses will soon be available. Watch this space!

You need photo ID to vote at a polling station



Types of accepted photo ID if you vote at a polling station

- Passport
- A photo driving licence (including provisional licence)
- A Blue Badge
- Older Person's Bus Pass
- Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- Freedom Pass
- Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- Biometric immigration document
- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- National identity card issued by an EEA state



LOCAL ELECTIONS

4 MAY 2023

Get free photo ID if you don't have any



Online: www.sandwell.gov.uk/elections2023



Call the Voter ID helpline on 0121 569 6999 or the elections team on 0121 569 3244.



Go into any Sandwell Library or Sandwell Council House in Oldbury for help to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate. You will need your National Insurance Number.

The deadline for getting a free Voter Authority Certificate to vote at a polling station in the May Local Elections is 5pm on Tuesday 25 April 2023.

You can still use accepted photo ID if it is out of date, as long as it still looks like you.

The name on your ID should be the same name you used to register to vote.

Remember there are other ways to vote.

If you would like to vote by post you can request a postal vote.

Full details: www.sandwell.gov.uk/elections2023

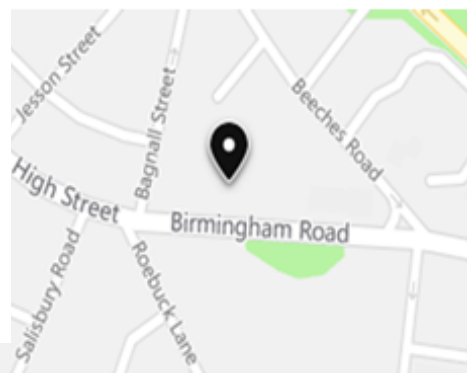


Sandwell Community Information & Participation Service



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SCIPS is a registered charity no 1097702.

If you would like to find out more about us visit our website

www.scips.org.uk