



Staffordshire
Chambers of
Commerce.

UN GLOBAL COMPACT – Communication on Engagement

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement:

From: October 2016 To: August 2019

Part I: Statement by the CEO

Date: August 2019

To our stakeholders,

Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce UN Global Compact Communication on Engagement

I am pleased to confirm that Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organisation has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Staffordshire Chambers is the leading business support membership organisation for Staffordshire that promotes, develops and supports more than 1000 members within the county. We provide members with business support, training, knowledge and guidance to support business growth within Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. As business experts we act in the public interest offering insights into the economy that help to shape government policy and regulation.

Staffordshire Chambers is practically active in many areas covered under the UN Global Compact and its Principles. This includes but is not limited to:

- Our work advising and guiding members on anti-bribery and corruption;
- Our work promoting awareness and compliance with UK reporting on modern slavery guiding our members to the adoption of best practice.
- Our work advising and guiding members on environmental responsibility and the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Over the last two years we have participated in activities that have advanced the principles of the compact, as well as using our voice within Staffordshire to raise awareness of the UN Global Compact and its importance to business, and pledge to continue doing so over the coming two years.

Yours sincerely,

Sara Williams
Chief Executive





Part 2: Description of Actions

Over the past two years Staffordshire Chambers has worked to adopt and embed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its strategy, engagement with our members and our everyday business actions. The SDGs provide a focus for the Chambers' work through which we can demonstrate our public interest role in a meaningful way. Our vision is to improve the prosperity of all residents in Staffordshire. Interpreting this in terms of the SDGs means prosperous and resilient economies, operating in fair and socially aware communities and all achieved within a respect for the natural world and natural capital.

In our letter of commitment, we outlined the numerous activities we would undertake to advance the principles of the Global Compact. Staffordshire Chambers has been proactive in its activities in a number of SDGs including;

1. No Poverty

- a. Involvement in the Hardship Commission to generate strategic and meaningful economic change in Stoke-on-Trent
- b. Supporting local initiatives such as CounterCoin – helping their research into the role of alternative currencies and hosting events.

2. Zero Hunger

- a. Working with our members to address school holiday hunger across the cities of Stoke-on-Trent and Liverpool.

3. Good Health and Well-being

- a. Developed and strengthened the organisational policies and procedures to support health and well-being within our workforce. Developing a well-being space within our offices for staff.
- b. Hosted a Workplace Well-being day for companies across Staffordshire
- c. Promoted the benefits of Chamber membership in accessing our Health and Wellbeing partners and Chamber HR services.

4. Quality Education

- a. Recruited a member of staff with the Careers and Enterprise Company to develop links to schools across Staffordshire
- b. Engaged extensively with the Opportunity Area for Stoke-on-Trent
- c. Promoted the benefits of becoming school/college governors to both staff and Chamber Members
- d. Established the Employment, Skills and HR Forum to break down the barriers between business and education.
- e. Engaging with the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership Skills Advisory Panel and acting as the secretariat for the Staffordshire Partnership for Employability and Skills.

5. Gender Equality

- a. Delivered a programme of business support for women through the Natwest Boosting Women in Business grant.
- b. Encouraged more female business leaders to join our Chamber Board of Directors.





6. Clean water and Sanitation / 7. Affordable and Clean Energy / 11. Sustainable cities and communities / 12. Responsible consumption and production / 13. Climate action / 14. Life below water / 15. Life on Land

- a. Established an Energy, Environment and Sustainability Business Forum for members to share best practice
- b. Established a Rural Business Forum to provide a space for business involved in agriculture, horticulture and rural affairs to share best practice and shape policy decisions.
- c. Promoted the role of clean growth and clean energy grant funding to members through the Staffordshire Business Environment Network partnership.
- d. Fitted solar panels to the main Chamber building and provide an EV charging point for employees and visitors of the Chamber.

8. Decent work and Economic Growth / 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

- a. Continue to influence key policy and decision makers to shape the business environment
- b. Offering business forums and sector forums for our members voice to be heard and to shape our local engagements

10. Reduced Inequalities

- a. Staffordshire Chambers remains one of the only Chambers to deliver a Social Value and CSR Forum, this group of Chamber members work to promote the principles of the Global Compact to the local business community.

We also committed to developing events and training to raise awareness of the Global Compact amongst local businesses, as well as other actions businesses can take to be more socially responsible. The Global Compact and the importance of Corporate Social Responsibility have also been a theme across many Chamber events, including events to raise awareness of the National Living Wage and Apprenticeship Levy and events to promote the eradication of Modern-Day Slavery within our members supply chains. In addition, a consultation session was held with Chamber members to highlight the importance of being socially responsible and the benefits this could have on their business.

In line with our commitment, we have ensured that we communicate our activities and engagement with the UN Global Compact via our communication channels. Our activity to promote the Global Compact is featured through our Chamber magazine, which has a printed circulation of 3,000, and also on our social media platforms and within the Chamber newsletter. Our partnerships with Social Value UK, Social Enterprise UK have allowed us to spread this message still further.





Staffordshire
Chambers of
Commerce.

staffordshirechambers.co.uk

Part III: Measurement of outcomes

The activities described above have succeeded in advancing the principles of the UN Global Compact. Through the Social Value and CSR Forum and the programme of events it has supported, we have ensured that more businesses have been made aware of, and engaged with, the Global Compact.

Much evidence of our work to date has been through anecdotal feedback that our stakeholders have provided. For example, we have had a number of participants from our workshops seek to deliver similar sessions within their own organisations or seek to embed the SDGs into their own business plans.

We set and achieved our internal environmental targets with regards to recycling. In addition, we highlighted our activities and successes to our contacts, including via social media, thereby encouraging them to adopt similarly environmentally responsible activities.

The Chamber has continued to provide an electric car charging point on our premises, which is used by our business clients and members of staff on a regular basis, and we have continued to encourage our staff and clients to consider alternative travel.

In the next two years we aim to transition awareness of the SDGs into action by increasing our outreach and awareness activities. In particular we want to focus on the next generation of business leaders through our future leaders section, *FutureFinest*, and our apprenticeship network *NexGen*.



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

CONNECT. BELONG. SUCCEED.