



VAST/PORT VALE FOUNDATION JOINT PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Tuesday 3rd March 2026

For media enquiries, interviews, and photo opportunities, please contact:

news@vast.org.uk or

Commented [FA1]: Port Vale Foundation media email address to be added here.

Future of Door2Door Community Transport Secured Through New Partnership with Port Vale Foundation

The long-term future of Door2Door Community Transport has been secured following confirmation that the service will transition to Port Vale Foundation when its current National Lottery funding comes to an end in March 2026.

Door2Door Community Transport currently a project managed by VAST, has been a vital lifeline for residents across Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire. The project supports older people, disabled residents, and individuals facing challenges in accessing community services, health appointments, and social opportunities by providing supportive and accessible transport options. As the project's funding comes to an end, ensuring the continuity of this essential service has been a top priority, and VAST is delighted to find somewhere it fits perfectly with strategy and priorities, and can continue to grow and flourish.

Following a period of planning and collaboration, Door2Door will move to Port Vale Foundation at the end of March 2026, where it will become part of their wider programme of community support and wellbeing services.

A positive step for community transport

Port Vale Foundation has a strong track record in delivering inclusive, community-focused programmes that improve quality of life for local residents, reduce social isolation, and support vulnerable groups. Integrating Door2Door into the Foundation's infrastructure will allow:

- Continued access to essential volunteer-led community transport for current passengers
- Enhanced coordination between transport and wider community support pathways
- Opportunities to further strengthen partnerships across the health, social care, and voluntary sectors
- Greater opportunities to expand the service and reach more residents
- Stability and continuity for Door2Door's valued volunteer drivers

Next steps

Work is now underway to ensure a smooth and well-coordinated transition for everyone involved. All volunteers, passengers, and partner organisations will be kept informed as details are finalised.

Charlotte Bennett, Infrastructure, Community & Partnerships Director at VAST said:

"We are delighted to have secured a positive and sustainable future for Door2Door. The service plays a crucial role in enabling independence and connection for people who might otherwise be isolated. Port Vale Foundation shares our values and commitment to the community, and we are confident the project will continue to flourish under their leadership."

Naomi Parton, Head of Port Vale Foundation said:

"We are proud to be welcoming Door2Door Community Transport into the Foundation. This service aligns closely with our mission to support local

people to live healthier, happier, more connected lives. We look forward to working with partners, volunteers, and passengers to build on the fantastic work already achieved.”

ENDS

Notes to editors:

About Door2Door Community Transport: Door2Door is a Community Transport scheme that provides transport services to people across Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire who are unable to use public transport. Supported by a team of volunteer drivers, Door2Door Community Transport supports people to get out and about in their communities helping reduce isolation and enabling people to maintain their independence for longer.

About VAST: VAST is a charity dedicated to developing a thriving VCSE sector to improve the quality of life for local communities. As well as managing the Dudson Centre and Dudson Museum in Hanley, VAST also manages several projects including Door2Door Community Transport, Totally Stoked, and Community Health Champions. · Website: <https://vast.org.uk/>

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About Port Vale Foundation:

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