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# Pride in Place: Providing the support infrastructure



**navca**  
local focus national voice

**SCVO**  
connecting · enabling · transforming

**nsdt**  
north smethwick  
development trust

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# Points for today

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION TO LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

WHAT GOOD VCSE SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE LOOKS LIKE AND WHY IT MATTERS

TAILORING SUPPORT TO LOCAL NEED

WHAT LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE CAN OFFER FOR PRIDE IN PLACE

BRINGING IT TO LIFE – IN CONVERSATION WITH A SANDWELL GRASSROOTS ORGANISATION

**What good infrastructure looks like:**

**Why does it matter?**

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Amplifies community voice

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Convenes VCSE and brokers equal partnerships

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Strengthens organisational capacity

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Enables inclusive volunteering

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Builds stronger, more resilient communities



# Community empowerment doesn't happen by accident



Connection and coordination



Building bridges and relationships



Cross-sector convening of communities, VCSE, local councils and health systems



Develop skills and confidence



Support community anchor organisations



Enable others

# Tailoring support to local need



**Working with communities** to understand assets and experiences and building on strengths



**Understanding context** – political, social, economic – to align support with wider systems and embed community assets



**Mapping existing activity**, identifying strengths, gaps and duplication



**Building in feedback loops**, so emerging insights and learning build shared understanding and refine direction as the work progressed.



## LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE CAN HELP YOU SET UP PRIDE IN PLACE

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Identify community anchor organisations, community members and VCSE partners for neighbourhood board

Help facilitate meetings and processes including setting up board and recruiting independent chair

Bring deep knowledge of the local people and area

Support community participation and develop community leadership

Build trusted cross-sectoral relationships and partnerships

Support with research and facilitate community consultation

A commitment to place and the success of Pride in Place

**Bringing it to life in conversation with  
Jennifer Harrison – Chief Executive Officer,  
North Smethwick Development Trust**

The reality of infrastructure  
support and what it creates

