



navca
local focus national voice

Pride in Place: Providing the support infrastructure

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Points for today:



Background and introduction to Infrastructure



What good VSCE sector infrastructure looks like and why it matters



Tailoring support to local need



Identifying gaps – and filling them



Bringing it to live – in conversation with Meena Kalsi – Community Calm

Why infrastructure matters: for the VCSE and for statutory services:

Does it matter to you?



Amplifies
community voice –
**"Hard to Reach
Communities X"**



Brokers equal
partnerships



Strengthens
organisational
capacity



Enables inclusive
volunteering



Builds stronger,
more resilient
communities



NAVCA's Four Functions of Infrastructure

"If the Room will not change neither will the outcome"

LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY



Mobilising and encouraging community action, strengthening our sector's voice and influence on key decision-makers and funders.

Community Action

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS



Creating opportunities and driving effective joint working by building networks of local organisations and strategic partners.

**Networking
Opportunities**



NAVCA's Four Functions of Infrastructure

"If the Room will not change neither will the outcome"



**Total National
Volunteering
Economy
£24.69**

Billion
(Work4U)

CAPACITY BUILDING



Providing practical support and opportunities for people to develop skills in their local community, so that they can achieve their goals and aspirations.

Developing Skills

VOLUNTEERING



Building an environment in which volunteers and their communities thrive, by encouraging and nurturing volunteering opportunities.

**Providing Volunteering
Opportunities**

Department of Cultural Media and Sports (DCMS) Research: vital role of Local Infrastructure



Stable, sufficient, **flexible resourcing** across all functions



Partners **share responsibility** for convening & advocacy



Smaller groups have **equitable access** to support



Sustainable funding = **trusted relationships**, skilled staff, and increased sector resilience **e.g. groups v officers**

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.



Key Principals for Effective Collaboration

Voluntary & Statutory Partners



Equal Partnerships/
relationships

TOM – Target
Operational Model

Transparency is Key

Co-Production –
make it real!

Identify gaps – and plan to strengthen support

Map what **support is there** from the widest range of sources

Go back to **strengths and assets** – what else is needed?

Work hard to create **trust & partnership**; avoid competitive practices

Support **innovation**, data, seek out the leaders and

Recognise and respect the value of communities and create support around that – and not the other way round!



Bringing it to life in conversation with Meena Kalsi – Community Calm

The reality of infrastructure support
and what it creates



Community Calm Mental Health Recovery Through Nature

