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Pride in Place: Providing the support infrastructure



navca
local focus national voice



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 life – in conversation

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

LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY



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

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS



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

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.

VOLUNTEERING



Building an environment in which volunteers and their communities thrive, by encouraging and nurturing 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**

Key Principals for Effective Collaboration

Voluntary & Statutory Partners



Equal Partnerships/
relationships

Transparency is Key

TOM – Target
Operational Model

Co-Production –
make it real!

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.

**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

Bringing it to life in conversation with Jill Hopkinson, Sally Yeoman and Claire Bradbury

The reality of infrastructure support
and what it creates



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