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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 live – in conversation with Nick Figgis and Gemma Morris

# 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 Nick Figgis and Gemma Morris

The reality of infrastructure  
support and what it creates



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