



Cornwall VCSE Infrastructure Alliance Statement of Intent – 12th November 2020

Over the past few months in the wake of the impact of Covid-19 on our people and communities, many different voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations have come together, showing a strong appetite and willingness for shared working and true collaboration.

A number of thematic alliances have been formed as a result and one of these is focused on infrastructure. Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF), Cornwall Rural Community Charity (CRCC), Volunteer Cornwall and Cornwall Community Foundation (CCF) have committed to a formal alliance of infrastructure organisations working in collaboration with each other to best serve the people of Cornwall and the environments in which we live.

Infrastructure is defined as the fundamental services and support that a VCSE organisation needs in order to work effectively; we're here to help you help yourselves and help you to help others. The infrastructure alliance is made up of voluntary sector organisations who deliver county-wide and provide infrastructure support to any VCSE organisation in Cornwall regardless of the subject matter, community or population they work with. The intention is to invite others to be a part of this alliance as we develop and we are already reaching out to others who share our infrastructure focus and geographical reach. This is intended to be an inclusive group that can flex as required around specific pieces of work.

The thinking behind these conversations instigated by CVSF is that having key charities and social enterprises working together in a more collaborative way with clearly demonstrated shared values and behaviours, will facilitate the involvement of people and communities across Cornwall to build the lives and communities they both want and need.

We have come together in order to find better, more inclusive, ways of working together that reduce duplication, fill gaps and find the resources to enable the VCSE sector to best serve our people and communities. We will also focus on identifying hidden needs and aspirations by helping groups and individuals to actively engage in their communities and develop new initiatives.

Evidence both locally and nationally tells our alliance that the voluntary sector needs the following infrastructure support:

- Communication
- Independent voice of the sector
- Finance and funding
- Governance guidance and support
- Training and skills development
- Volunteer recruitment and development
- Contract and bid writing capacity
- Impact and outcomes identification and measurement
- Community intelligence and co-design support

Our aim as an alliance is to find ways to deliver this support in a way that is most efficient and effective for the sector and the people and communities we are here to support.

What's next?

As the infrastructure alliance is in its infancy there has not been any formal consultation or feedback sought. We will be engaging with the sector to get your views of what the alliance should deliver.

If you have any thoughts or ideas at this early stage please do feel free to send them to: Hannah Danson (Communications Officer) Cornwall VSF on comms@cornwallvsf.org by 27th November 2020.