



Newcastle CVS gives people who struggle to be heard a voice, supports voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations to be resilient and sustainable, and promotes a fairer society by influencing and challenging the debate.

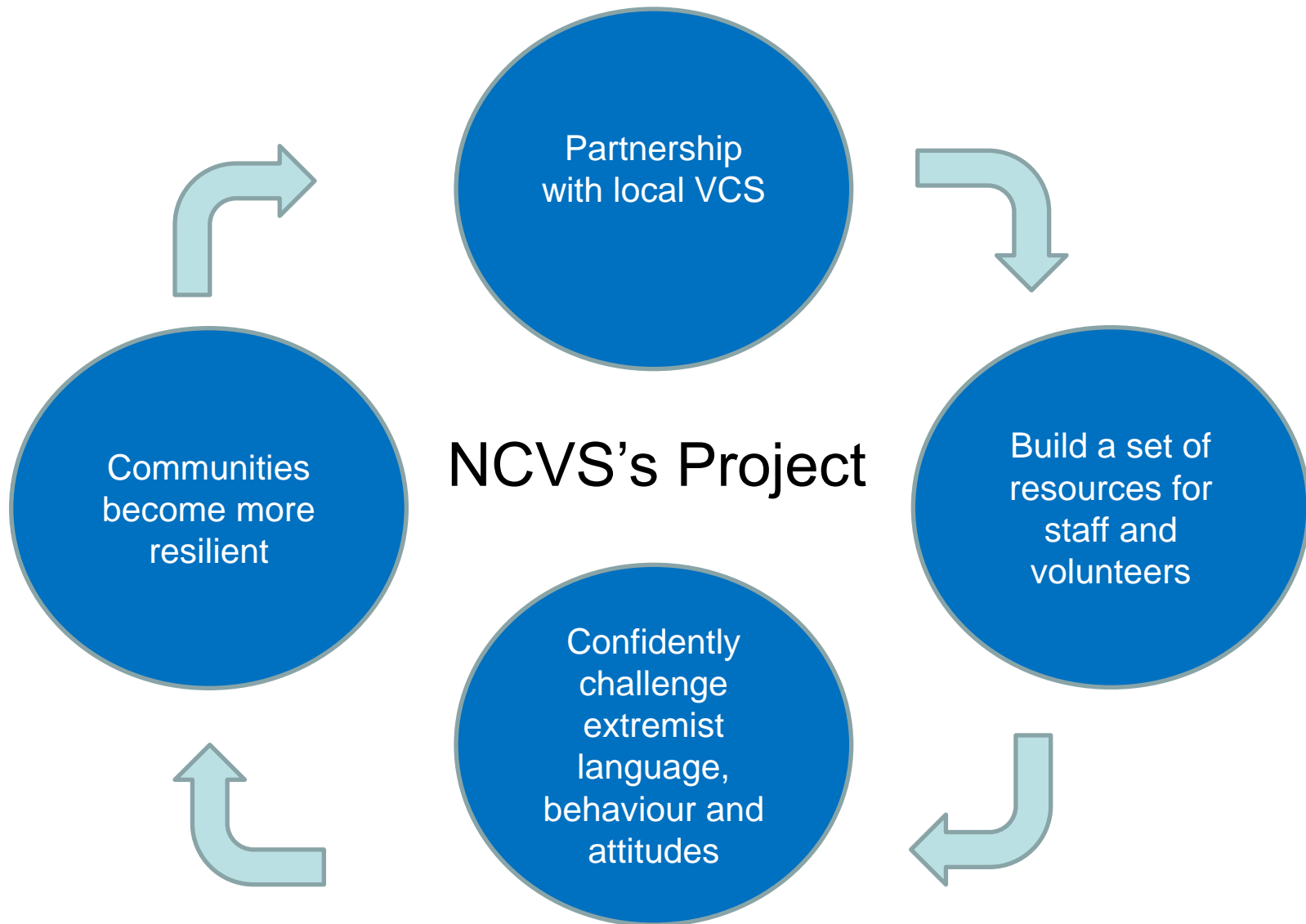
Our established reputation, extensive networks and integrity and strength of approach makes us the go to source in supporting voluntary, community and social enterprise action. We improve the quality of life in Newcastle and Gateshead by supporting the voluntary sector.

Building A Stronger Britain Together (BSBT)

- Home Office Counter-Extremism Strategy
- Partnership between government projects that counter extremism and build stronger communities
- Help groups expand their reach and influence

BSBT Funding & Support

- In-kind support
technical assistance building website
- Grants
targeted funding for projects to provide
a positive alternative to extremist
voices



Three phases

- Qualitative Research
- Building website and creating content
- Launch and engagement campaign

Qualitative Research

- To identify experience of right wing extremist behaviour directly encountered by VCS staff
- NOT seeking narratives of ‘victims’
- Capture anecdotal evidence of increased community tensions

Research methodology

- Purposive sampling of four locations
- Two each in Gateshead and Newcastle

Benwell/Elswick

Gosforth

Deckham

Chopwell/Blackhall Mill

Data collection

- Approx 25 individual interviews
- 3 focus groups
- 12 organisations

- To follow:
 - Staff working with adults with learning difficulties

Range of Responses

Rejected
the
question

No issue

Maybe,
currently
or in the
future

Probably

Yes; not
emerging,
already
here

Key themes

- Almost all identified relevant experiences
- Most respondents framed discussion around race and racism
- No spontaneous discussion of disability issues
- Little reference to LGBT issues

Key issues

- Few direct experiences of active involvement in far-right groups
- Lack of knowledge of referring/reporting
- Common experiences of ‘platform’ views
- General sense of increased levels of ‘prejudicial views’
- Attitudes based on partial information

Contextual issues

- Brexit
- Refugee crisis
- Westminster Bridge/Manchester/Borough Market attacks
- Hackney Mosque attack
- Operation Sanctuary

Recurring tropes

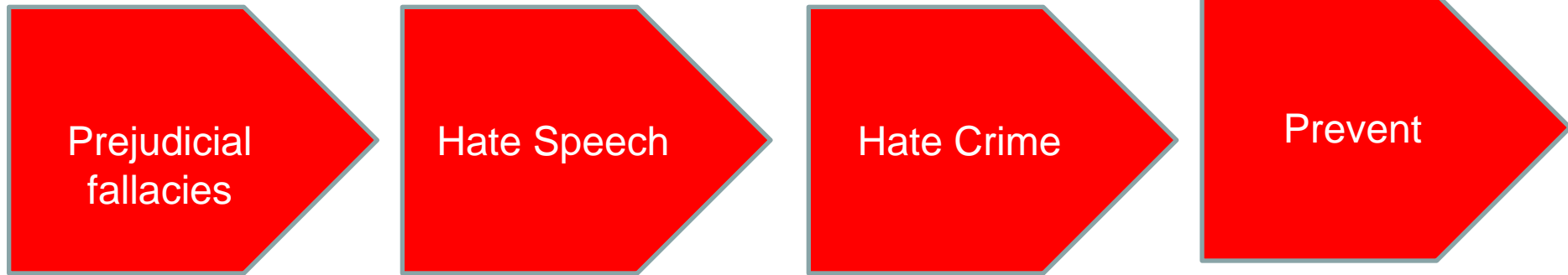
- Built environment (inc. rubbish) – blaming new arrivals
- ‘They’ take away our jobs
- Social housing access and support
- Private rented housing
- Welfare benefits and support
- Health service access (and provision)

Three choices

- Too busy, or not our business
- You can't say that man!
- We need to find ways to have these difficult conversations

Shape of the website

Conversation
not Confrontation



Continuum of severity

Resources 1

- Prejudicial fallacies
 - Series of ‘crib sheets’ (difficult conversations)
 - Short workshop exercises (for use in existing settings)
 - ‘Fake news’ checker
 - Critical analysis tips

- Pre-testers welcome!

Resources 2

- **Hate Speech and Hate Crime**

Understanding what the difference is

Confidence in reporting

Confidence in supporting those affected

Confidence in challenging attitudes constructively

Resources 3

- Prevent
 - Understanding of pathways for reporting extremism
 - Confidence in system being supportive and in safeguarding context
 - Understanding of pathways in Gateshead
 - Understanding of pathways in Newcastle (video)

Conversation not Confrontation

Sign-up and endorsement of the campaign across the VCS here in the North-East

Promotional resources for use by participating groups' premises and websites

Sign the pledge?

- Endorse the campaign publicly
- Share the intent with staff and volunteers
- Signpost staff and volunteers to the website resources

Milestones

- Full research report - October
- Website development – Sept to Jan 18
- Launch in early February 2018
- Campaign runs 6 to 8 weeks to end March

In short....

“The boiler man and the taxi driver...almost been given a language to turn racist feelings into acceptable views...there was no awkwardness about it...almost saying we were wrong about multi-culturalism...fed by a simplistic ‘Daily Mail’ line.

When you challenge people, they see the logic, but are nervous about what it would mean for them”