



**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.

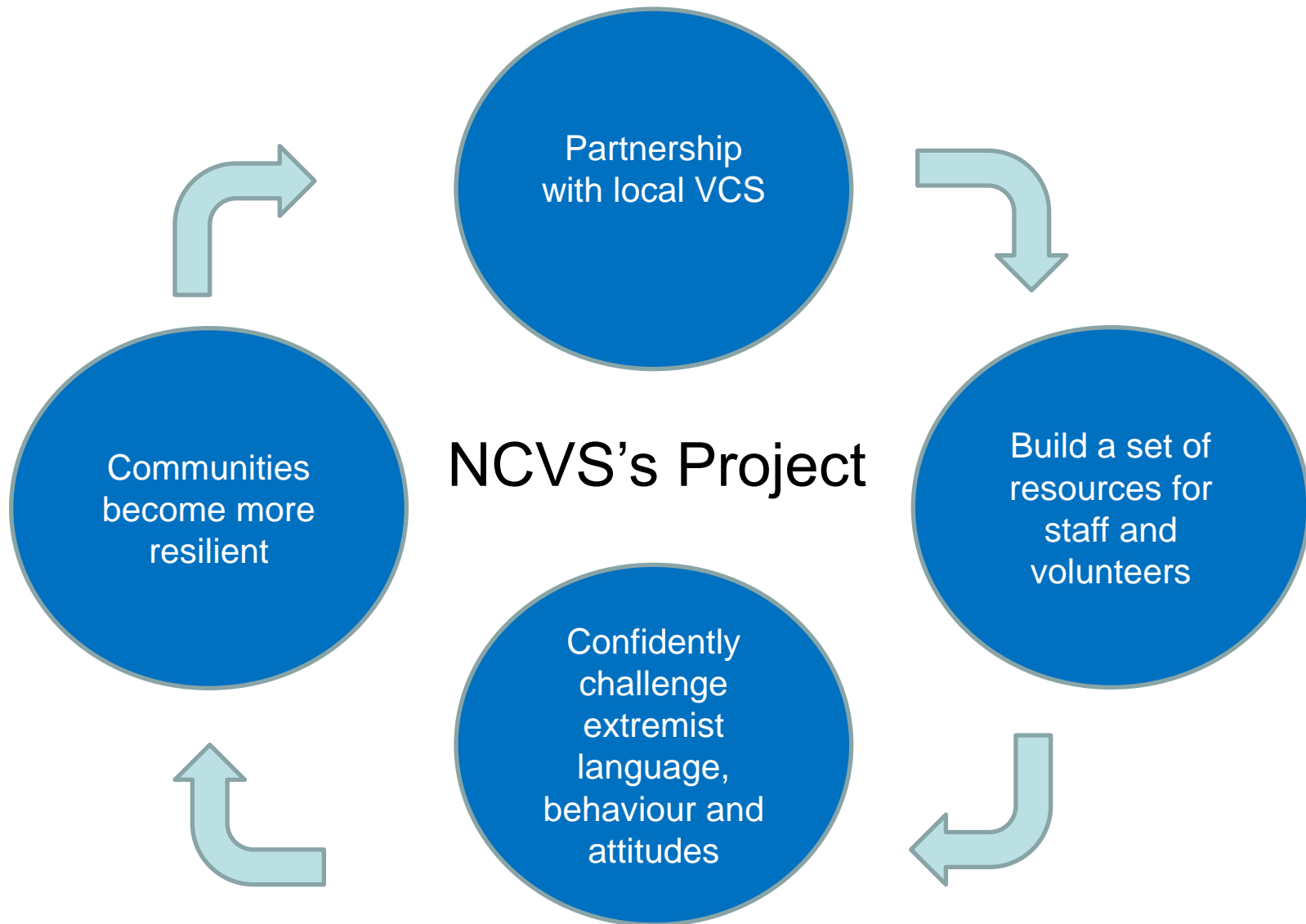
Our established reputation, extensive networks and integrity and strength of approach makes us the go to source in supporting voluntary, community and social enterprise action. We improve the quality of life in Newcastle and Gateshead by supporting the voluntary sector.

# 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 levels 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

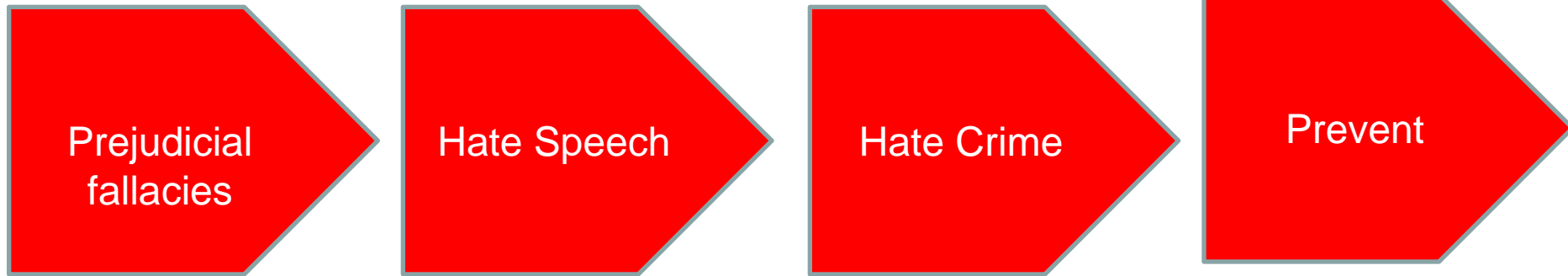
- Brexit
- Refugee crisis
- Westminster Bridge/Manchester/Borough Market attacks
- Hackney Mosque attack
- Operation Sanctuary

# 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)

# Shape of the website

Working title – Difficult Conversations



Four main headings  
Continuum of severity

# Resources

- 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

- Hate Speech and Hate Crime

Understanding what the difference is

Confidence in reporting

Confidence in supporting those affected

Confidence in challenging attitudes constructively



# Resources

- 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)

# Ya cannit say that, man!

Secure sign-in area for VCS organisations  
(via NCVS membership)

Sign-up and endorsement of the campaign

Promotional resources for display in  
venues/website

# Sign the pledge?

- Do you think there's any mileage in the concept of a campaign with VCS sign-up

What 'pledges' might it cover (top 3?)

Thoughts for an overall feel/tone?

# Pick your brains #1

Crib sheets for difficult conversations

What themes/tropes would be useful to cover

Pick your top 5

# Pick your brains #2

- Each table has one crib-sheet trope/theme
- What would you include
- What would you exclude
- What would be your overall approach

# Milestones

- Full research report - end of October
- Website development begins September
- Aiming for a 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”



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