

Assumptions for Theory of Change

1. A greater number of effective and sustainable VCSE organisations leads to engaged, stronger and more resilient communities.
2. A thriving VCSE sector with opportunities to volunteer, contributes directly to the wellbeing of individuals and communities.
3. Improved wellbeing of individuals leads to a reduction in use of public services, especially health services.
4. Communities of place and interest have the inherent knowledge and resources within them to develop solutions to issues, when given the opportunity, resources, time and confidence to do so.
5. Working collaboratively and in partnership is beneficial to all.
6. The VCSE sector is an essential and willing partner in the delivery of public services.
7. Public services have the capacity and agility to change and adapt to respond to community needs.
8. Citizens want to engage in volunteering and community activities.
9. Local authorities and statutory partners need local people and VCSE organisations to be involved in decision making and service delivery.
10. Relationships between activities, outputs, outcomes and impacts are complex and multifaceted, and several outputs and outcomes may be needed for a single impact to happen.
11. External factors including socio-economic ones and those that are intangible will also influence impacts.
12. It would not be accurate to draw straight lines from specific outputs or outcomes to a specific impact without unambiguous evidence being presented to substantiate the relationship.
13. Outputs, outcomes and impacts need to be systematically evidenced.
14. Service delivery by local infrastructure organisations is not accounted for in this theory of change, as it is not a core infrastructure activity, but may have a positive or negative impact on LIOs.

Theory of Change for Local Infrastructure Organisations in England



