

**DCA Strategic Priorities : 2024-2027**

	<b>Overarching Functions of DCA to support VCSE</b>		<b>How</b>	<b>Who We Are</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
1	Leadership & Advocacy	Mobilising and encouraging community action, strengthening our sectors voice and influence on key decision makers & funders	Providing Information and advice Representing, advocating, giving voice to the local sector on strategic fora	Representing and providing a voice for the community and voluntary sector in County Durham	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. County Durham VCSE has strong voice and influence on key decisions and relevant policy and service development.</li> <li>2. VCSE informed and supported to participate in local policy development and decision-making structures across County Durham (and within the ICS/NEMCA footprint).</li> <li>3. Our local partners are better informed about local VCSE sector and communities they serve.</li> <li>4. DCA is recognised by the VCSE and other partners for its credible leadership role and ability to create links within VCSE and across sectors.</li> </ol>
2	Partnerships and Collaboration	Creating opportunities and driving effective joint working by building networks of local organisations and strategic partners	Hosting and facilitating specific networks of VCSEs & themed action groups/projects Carrying out research about sector or local issues Community/Neighbourhood Development work	Supporting and nurturing community initiatives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is effective communication, collaboration and partnerships among VCSE organisations, between sectors, with communities and people in County Durham.</li> <li>2. VCSEs influence and deliver services more effectively by working collaboratively through networks, formal partnerships and consortia across County Durham and the systems we operated within (ICS/NEMCA).</li> <li>3. There is increased understanding of the principles underpinning good partnership working across the systems we operate within.</li> </ol>
3	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	Providing Information and advice Supporting individual groups/organisations Providing training Community/Neighbourhood Development work	Providing expertise and advice which is tailored to needs and circumstances	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengths and needs of the VCSE sector are identified and solutions to maximise potential and strengthen capacity are developed within communities.</li> <li>2. VCSEs organisations access high quality support, advice and facilitation from DCA which extends their knowledge, skills and sustainability.</li> <li>3. VCSEs are more knowledgeable about needs and priorities in their community and can adapt activities in response.</li> </ol>
4	Volunteering	Building an environment in which volunteers and their communities thrive by encouraging and nurturing volunteering opportunities	Volunteering brokerage, promotion and support	Enabling good volunteering practice and opportunities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DCA supports and develops a positive environment in which the value of volunteering is recognised, and volunteer activity is flourishing.</li> <li>2. Partners and stakeholders have good understanding and knowledge of volunteering, best practice and impact of changes in policy and practice.</li> </ol>