

What works for VCSE organisations in building capacity, resilience and sustainability

Learning from a rapid evidence review

 This summary is based on a rapid evidence review conducted by SQW to inform their evaluation of The National Lottery Community Fund's Dormant Assets NI Phase One Grant Programme.

6 themes of good practice were identified through the rapid evidence review.

These practices work together to support VCSE organisations to build their capacity, resilience and sustainability.

Diversification of income sources



Including exploring more sustainable, longer term contracts, and alternative funding models (e.g. social enterprise, crowdfunding).

The delivery of strategic, operational and financial planning



Underpinned by a shared ambition and clear strategy and business plan.

Investment in staff and volunteer recruitment and training



Prioritise volunteer recruitment and retention. Allocate sufficient time for staff to undertake training to build their capacity and capabilities.

Developing leadership and management capabilities



This supports the effective adoption and delivery of strategic plans, and sets the tone for the organisation.

Relationship building and partnership working



Including with other VCSE organisations, and public and private sector organisations.

Demonstrating organisational impact and social value



Through monitoring and evaluation. This can help to attract supporters, donors and funders.

Building capacity, resilience and sustainability requires a tailored and holistic approach, as VCSE organisations each have different needs, priorities and contexts.



A full summary of evidence, alongside interim evaluation findings, is available on [The National Lottery Community Fund's website](#).