



A voluntary and community sector manifesto for Newcastle and Gateshead General Election 2017 #VCSGE2017

Invest in social action: communities need more opportunity and resources to address local issues on their own terms and to create conditions that work for local people. Funds from sources like dormant bank accounts should be shared more equally to invest in the UK's network of Community Foundations for local grants and to support community assets

Recognise the value of volunteering: volunteering contributes millions of pounds to the UK's economy and can help to create a more equal society by offering opportunities for lifelong learning and new experiences. However volunteering is not a 'free good' and requires investment to support volunteers to ensure their experience is safe and rewarding

End the austerity and the current welfare reform crisis: changes to the benefits system and austerity policies have created crisis for many families and communities. For many food banks have become a fact of life, including for more and more working households. Social mobility is decreasing and inequalities increasing. Ending austerity policies and changing the welfare system so that they enable individuals and families and do not harm them or stifle aspiration is essential for a fairer, more mobile society

End the health and social care crisis: increased funding for health and social care services are part of the remedy to the current crisis; however what is fundamentally required are changes in how services are designed, delivered and received. Acknowledging the wider determinants of health and increasing the involvement of charities and voluntary and community organisations at all levels of planning, delivery and engagement offers a way to improve the experience of people using those services

Value children and young people: a third of children growing up in Britain today face a childhood in poverty, which only changes to the welfare system can immediately address. This also requires a national strategy that offers the best start for children and young people to grow in safe and sustaining communities and achieve their goals. This should be their introduction to education and lifelong learning

A Brexit agreement that benefits all: this is a General Election that is framed by Brexit. During the next two years of negotiations it is vital that charities, voluntary organisations and communities are able to inform those negotiations so the result is real and positive change. We must give assurance to EU citizens living in the UK and contributing to both the economy and local communities

Newcastle CVS | Higham House | Higham Place | Newcastle upon Tyne | NE1 8AF

T 0191 232 7445 F 0191 230 5640 E ncvs@cvsnewcastle.org.uk W www.cvsnewcastle.org.uk