

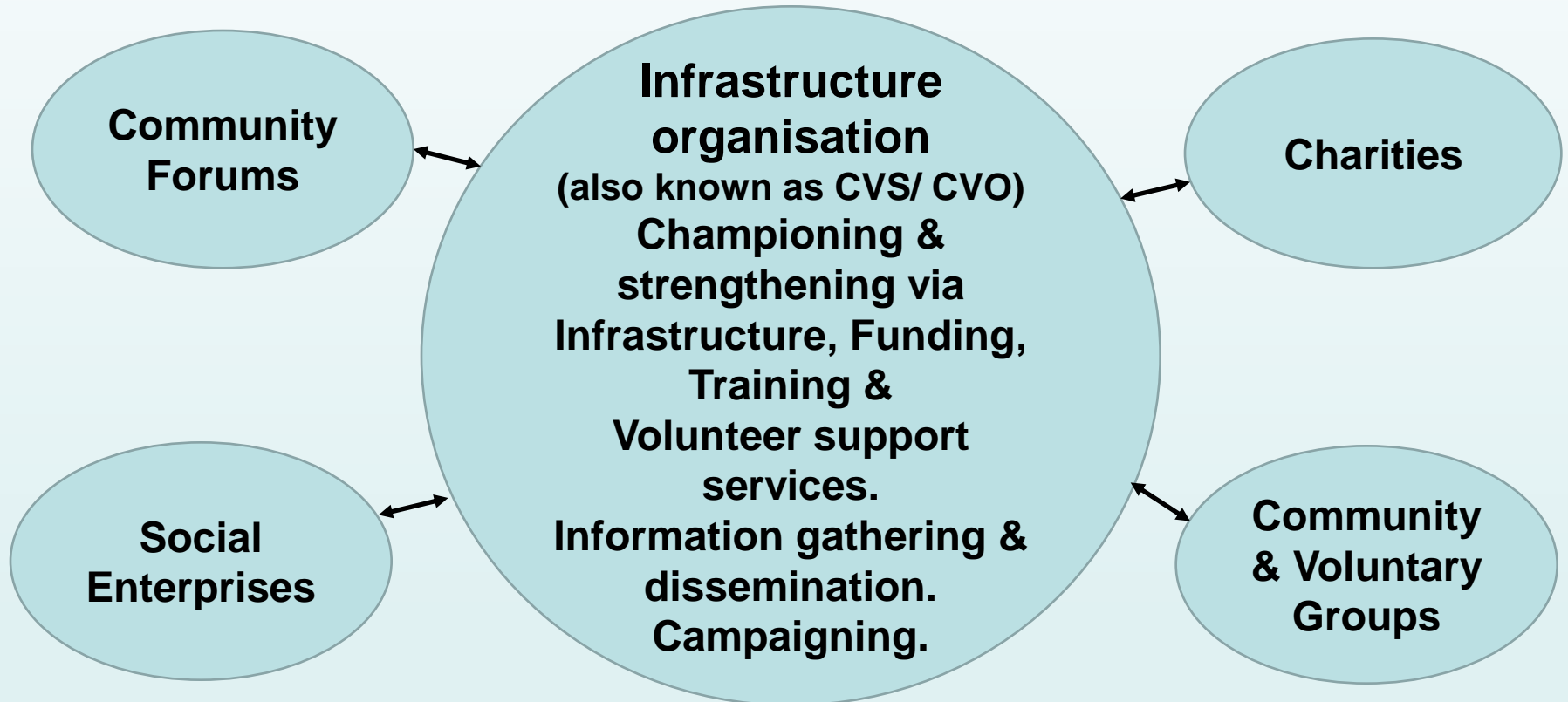
(Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action operating as)

# **Working with the Voluntary & Community sector**

The role of the voluntary sector, the challenges they face in working with statutory organisations and what they need

**Janet Dean**

# Voluntary & Community group structure



**Within a specified geographical area**

# The role of the Infrastructure organisation

## *Guide and drive the empowerment and strengthening of **Community Capacity***

- Enable communities to lead local projects with a neighbourhood-scale approach to ensure villages, towns and cities are fit for the future and create the conditions for people to thrive
- Empower community groups to come together to tackle issues of local priority and to work in partnership with statutory organisations and businesses so that multiple benefits can be delivered

# The role(s) of the Voluntary & Community sector

- direct provision of services to individuals, groups and the environment
- mutual provision of support and self-help
- advocacy
- education and research
- purposes that have not been recognised by any other institution
- Contribute to the building of civil society
- taking of action on issues
- contributing to the economy
- .....

## The Challenges ....

- **PH: Healthy Lives, Healthy People**
  - The responsibility to improve and protect our health lies with us all – Government, local communities ..... The NHS, Social Care, the Voluntary sector and communities will all work together to make this happen.
- **NHS: High Quality Care for All**
  - NHS services should enable a patient's own network of friends and family to take a more active role in their care. .... often hidden wealth of willing support within our communities has the potential to greatly enhance patient experiences, especially where services ..... encourage greater mutual and reciprocal care ('people helping people') within our communities.

## What the VCS needs

- The what, why, where, when and how
  - To understand priorities and timescales
  - To be involved in translating priorities into practice at a local level
  - To be able to access funding required
- In order to engage the ‘who’

**Thank you**

**Questions & Answers**

