

Building Connected, Inclusive & Resilient Communities

21 October 2026



Agenda

10:00am Arrival, drinks, and Networking

10:15am Welcome and Housekeeping

10:20am ‘Communities Together’– update on Adur Voluntary Action and Community Works partnership project

- ❖ Karen Macleod, CEO, Adur Voluntary Action and Jess Sumner, CEO, Community Works

10:30am ‘What Leading with Joy in Community Work Can Teach You About Belonging’

- ❖ Bud Johnston and Annie Whilby Co-Founders, Black Anti-Racism Community Organisation (CIC)

11:30am Tea Break and Networking

11:45am ‘Introduction to LGBTQ+’

- ❖ Ben Dew, Training & Education Service Manager, Allsorts Youth Project

12:45am Networking Lunch

1:30pm ‘Beyond one size fits all – Working together with young adults to create inclusive environments’

- ❖ Emma Edwards, CEO, Esteem

2:45pm Next steps & reflections

3:00pm Finish

Ground Rules

- Speak slowly and clearly when speaking.
- Please raise your hand to speak or ask a question.
- Please put mobile phones on silent, but feel free to participate or share via social media
- Allow people to disagree. Challenge the issue not the person.
- Confidentiality: members may leave the meeting and repeat what was said, but not who said it.
- No jargon please.
- Don't use language which could be construed as discriminatory or offensive to others and use the individual's personal pronouns.
- Treat each other with respect.

Inspiration for the Communities Together Project: The NAVCA EEDI Allyship Programme

- Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Allyship is the practice of actively supporting and advocating for individuals or groups who are marginalised, underrepresented, or facing discrimination.
- It involves using one's own privilege, power, or position to promote equality, equity, inclusion, and social justice.

The NAVCA Allyship Project

- Help participants champion and promote a culture of inclusion, allyship, inclusivity, and belonging.
- Help participants champion the creation of more equitable and inclusive environments for all individuals, regardless of their race, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, or other characteristics.
- To do this within their own organisations and the wider VCSE communities we work with.

Taking the Allyship Learning Forward

- With the Communities Together Project, we want to help inform and empower groups, no matter what stage of their EEDI journey they are at, to embed solid EEDI principles in their work.
- We want to work with groups to build connectivity across our communities, share learning, support EEDI and nurture cohesion within communities.

‘Communities Together’– update on Adur Voluntary Action and Community Works partnership project

Karen Macleod, CEO, Adur Voluntary Action and Jess Sumner, CEO, Community Works

Adur Voluntary Action has joined forces with Community Works to develop Communities Together, a project to help build connection, inclusion and belonging across Adur and Worthing.

The project is funded by the Adur & Worthing Councils Thriving Together grant fund and is designed to help bring local people and groups closer, share learning, strengthen understanding between communities, and make sure everyone feels welcome and supported in Adur & Worthing.



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

The project will offer:

- ❖ Today's 'Building Connected, Inclusive & Resilient Communities', event
- ❖ A toolkit offering practical tools and resources to support groups in making their activities more inclusive and welcoming.

‘Communities Together’

A lasting legacy for Adur and Worthing

One of the most important parts of Communities Together is what it will leave behind.

The project will create:

- Long-lasting relationships between local groups supporting one another.
- A toolkit with templates, guidance and resources any group can use to strengthen their EEDI approach.
- Shared learning and stronger relationships that help communities work together when challenges arise.

‘What Leading with Joy in Community Work Can Teach You About Belonging’

Bud Johnston and Annie Whilby Co-Founders, Black Anti-Racism
Community Organisation (CIC)



Tea Break- Networking



‘Introduction to LGBTQ+’

Ben Dew, Training & Education Service Manager, Allsorts Youth Project



COMMUNITY
WORKS

Networking Lunch

Bon appétit!

‘Beyond one size fits all – Working together with young adults to create inclusive environments’

Emma Edwards, CEO, Esteem



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Next steps & reflections



Please share your thoughts





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Thank you!