

# **People Select Committee**

## **Partnership Working in Early Help**

Lucy Owens, CEO Catalyst  
Marc Besford, Strategic Lead- YUSA

# Catalyst- What we do

## **Our Role**

Catalyst Stockton-on-Tees is the strategic infrastructure organisation for the borough of Stockton-on-Tees. Established in 2007, the organisation was conceived as a **partnership** project between the VCSE and local authority. The concept was to create an overarching body that could act in a number of ways to further the impact, reputation and opportunities of the VCSE in the Borough.

## **Vision**

To be the best practice infrastructure organisation in a strong, healthy VCSE sector. We have a vision of a coherent and single sector, **working together in partnership** with public bodies and private businesses as well as VCSE organisations to deliver services to the communities in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees and the Tees Valley.

# Catalyst- What we do

- Infrastructure support for VCSE- **SBC contract 4 years from Oct 2025**
  - Set up and development advice
  - Funding support
  - Training
- Funding disbursement
- Communications
  - E-bulletin
  - Social media
- Strategic Volunteering support
  - Stockton Volunteers Website
- Catalyst Conference

# Catalyst- What we do

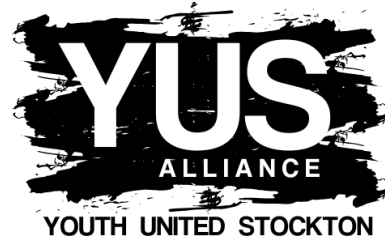
## Communications

- VCSE Forums and networking events
- E-bulletin
- Social media
- Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB)
- One to one support
- Catalyst Conference

# Catalyst's Partnership working in Stockton-on-Tees

- Both formal and informal- natural way of working
- Partnership Projects:
  - Youth United Stockton Alliance (YUSA)
  - Community Mental Health Transformation (Wellbeing Hub)
  - Stockton Food Power Network
- Representing the sector
  - Team Stockton
  - Family First Partnership Board
  - Child Poverty Network
  - HSSCP
  - HAF Steering Group
  - Lots more

# YUSA- A case study



# How SBC can support the voluntary sector moving forward...

## **Build on strengths and successes:**

- Strong reputation for collaborating
- Commitment to VCSE (Move from funding to commissioning)
- Warm Welcome model
- HAF Project
- Sport England approach

# How SBC can support the voluntary sector moving forward...

## **Listen and respond to feedback:**

- Timely requests for information/ data
- Value as equal partners (this works both ways)
- Recognise professionalism of the sector
- Qualitative outcomes valued as much as quantitative
- Recognise full cost recovery
- Long term vs short intervention (both funding and collaborating)



# Making this happen

## What can we do?

- VCSE Charter (devised from Civil Society Covenant)
- Relaunch Senior Leaders Forum
- Public recognition/ comms campaign of successful partnerships
- Strengthen the link between VCSE and Stockton Information Directory

# Any Questions?