

The National Lottery – Reaching Communities Partnership Community Development Project Simplified Outcomes Framework

This framework outlines the four simplified outcomes for Year 2 reporting of the TNL Community Development Project.

It reflects the overarching aim of building a strong, vibrant, and connected VCSE sector, using community development as the primary tool.

The role of CVS is central to this work — facilitating listening, engagement, collaboration, connected learning, and systems change. Listening to and supporting communities, learning and understanding, especially the gaps and hidden voices, influencing statutory organisations and institutions, and strengthening the VCSE sector are all core to this approach.

Narrative is key to illuminating the personal stories behind statistics. Case studies and reflections from Community Developers and Connectors are essential to capturing the lived experiences, challenges, and solutions emerging from the ground — and ensuring these are shared with relevant strategic partners and stakeholders.

The “**Now What?**” is also critical — identifying next steps and what we would do differently moving forward.

The Lottery is particularly interested in what we are learning from the people and communities we work with, how this learning has informed our practice, and what changes we may make to our delivery plans as a result.

We also recommend simplifying the National Occupational Standards (NOS) to align with the new outcomes, reducing them to six overarching categories:

1. **Understand and practice community development** (practitioner development, learning & training)
2. **Listen to & engage with communities** (particularly those whose voices are often missed)
3. **Collective action & group work** (events, activities, campaigns)
4. **Collaborative & cross-sector working** (e.g. operational coordination groups, partnerships)
5. **Community learning for social change** (e.g. climate, equalities, leadership skills)
6. **Governance and organisational development** (formal organizations’ and activity)



Outcome 1	1. ENGAGING people in communities of place or shared need to identify priorities, assets, strengths, and gaps — and to support them in taking collective relevant action [Short version - listening to & supporting communities]
This outcome is about:	Rooted in listening, supporting, and empowering communities through community development. It focuses on meaningful engagement, co-production, and surfacing hidden voices — ensuring that people with lived experience are at the heart of identifying what matters most. Rather than measuring 'resilience' directly, it captures change through action and feedback. CVS enables this through its Leadership Hub and strategic coordination role, helping communities articulate their priorities, share their stories, and take collective, relevant action that reflects their own aspirations and strengths.
Outcome 2	Embedding LEARNING from community engagement to inform and adapt delivery, with a focus on the lived experiences, challenges, and solutions identified by Community Developers and Connectors. (Short version – Improving Practice)
This outcome is about:	Learning from the ground up: capturing what CDs and Connectors are seeing, hearing, and doing and impacts on them Adapting delivery: using that learning to shape how the project evolves. Narrative and reflection: telling the story behind the data — what's working, what's hard, and what's changing. Connecting communities: showing how CDs are linking people, ideas, and practices across places and themes.
Outcome 3	3. STRENGTHENING the VCSE sector (including both CVS'S) through supporting third-sector organisations, staff, and volunteers; sharing best practice; supporting new networks, activities and organisations. [Short version – Strengthening the VCSE sector]
This outcome is about:	Capacity-building: Supporting the people and organisations that make up the VCSE sector. Wellbeing and development: Investing in staff and volunteers through training, reflective practice, and leadership support. Knowledge-sharing: Promoting best practice and peer learning across the sector. Growth and innovation: Enabling new groups, networks, and initiatives to emerge. CVS leadership: Highlighting the role of both CVSs as infrastructure bodies and connectors.
Outcome 4	4. Using community intelligence to INFLUENCE system change and decision-making, whilst promoting the impact (including prevention) the sector makes. (Short version – influence statutory organisations, institutions and wider strategic partnerships)
This outcome is about:	Promoting the sector and identifying pathways for long-term investment and sustainability. CVS plays a central role in convening, supporting, and advocating for the sector. In Year 2, CVS will strengthen its role as a bridge between communities and systems — ensuring that community voice, particularly from underrepresented groups, is surfaced and embedded in decision-making. This will help shape policy, service design, and investment strategies that reflect lived experience and local priorities. Representing the voices of the community & sector in partnerships, strategic networks and with commissioners to influence priorities and service design