



Acronyms and abbreviations

A guide to help you unravel voluntary and community sector jargon

A		BIS	Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
A4A	Awards for All		
ABG	Area Based Grant	BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
ABI	Area Based Initiative	BMER	Black, Minority Ethnic and Refugee
ACAS	Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service	BRE	Better Regulation Executive
ACE	Arts Council England	BTEG	Black Training and Enterprise Group
ACEVO	Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations		
ACF	Association of Charitable Foundations	C	
ACH	Action for Children	CAB	Citizens Advice Bureau
ACIE	Association of Charity Independent Examiners	CAF	Charities Aid Foundation
ACL	Adult and Community Learning	CAF	Common Assessment Framework
ACRE	Action with Communities in Rural England	CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
ACS	Association of Charity Shops	CAMHS	Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services
ALI	Adult Learning Inspectorate	CAN	Community Action Network
ALW	Adult Learners' Week	CAS	Community Accountancy Service
ARVAC	Association for Research in the Voluntary and Community Sector	CBI	Confederation of British Industry
AWM	Advantage West Midlands	CCG	Community Care Grant
AWP	Any Willing Provider	CCLA	Churches, Charities and Local Authorities
		CCT	Compulsory Competitive Tendering
B		CDF	Community Development Foundation
BAME	Black And Minority Ethnic	CDFA	Community Development Finance Association
BAMER	Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee	CDX	Community Development Exchange
bassac	British Association of Settlements and Social Action Centres		

CED	Community Economic Development	CLSP(s)	Community Legal Service Partnership(s)
CEDC	Community Education Development Centre	CO	Chief Officer
CEF	Community Empowerment Fund	COI	Central Office of Information
CEFET	Central England Forum for European Training	COIN	Chief Officers' Information Network
CEMVO	Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Organisations	CORE	Chief Officers' Residential Event
CEN	Community Empowerment Network	COVER	Community and Voluntary Forum Eastern Region
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	CPA	Comprehensive Performance Assessment
CES	Charities Evaluation Services	CPD	Continuing Professional Development
CEV	Centre for European Volunteering	CPO	Compulsory Purchase Order
CFC	Change for Children	CPPIH	Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health
CFN	Community Foundation Network		
CFO	Co-Financing Organisation	CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England
CFV	The Commission on the Future of Volunteering	CRB	Criminal Records Bureau
CHC	Community Health Council	CRC	Carbon Reduction Commitment
CHIP	City Housing Improvement Plan	CRC	Commission for Rural Communities
CIC	Community Interest Company	CSC	Community Sector Coalition
CIO	Confederation of Indian Organisations	CSF	Community Support Framework
CIO	Charitable Incorporated Organisation	CSP	County Sports Partnership
CIPD	Chartered Institute of Personnel Development	CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy	CSR	Comprehensive Spending Review
CLG	(Department of) Communities and Local Government	CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CLA	Community Legal Advice	CSV	Community Service Volunteers
		CTN	Charity Trustees Network

CTLLS	Certificate to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector	DIG	Disablement Income Group
CVS	Council(s) for Voluntary Service (now referred to as Local Support and Development Organisations)	DNGNet D(s)PH DSCI DSO	Disability Network Group Director(s) of Public Health Directory of Social Change Departmental Strategic Objectives
CWDC	Children's Workforce Development Council	DTA	Development Trusts Association
CWG	Compact Working Group	DTLLS	Diploma to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector
CYP	Children and Young People	DWNet	Development Workers' Network
CYPNet	Children and Young People Network	DWP	Department for Work and Pensions
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan		
CYPSPB	Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board	E E2E EAPN	Entry to Employment European Anti Poverty Network
D		EC	European Commission
DAAT	Drug and Alcohol Team	ECM	Every Child Matters
DAT	Drug Action Team	EDE	Economic Development & Enterprise
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government	EEDA	East of England Development Agency
DCMS	Department of Culture, Media and Sport	EHRC	Equality and Human Rights Commission
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act	EIA	European Information Association
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change	EIF	European Investment Fund
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	EMDA	East Midlands Development Agency
DEL	Departmental Expenditure Limit	EMU	Economic and Monetary Union
DfE	Department for Education	EOY	End of Year returns
DFG	Disabled Facilities Grant	EqIA	Equality Impact Assessment
DH	Department of Health	ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
DIAL UK	Disability Information and Advice Line services UK		

ERN	English Regions Network (umbrella organisation for Regional Assemblies)	GNVQ	General National Vocational Qualification
ESF	European Social Fund	GSCC	General Social Care Council
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages	H	
ESV	Employer Supported Volunteering	HA	Housing Association
EU	European Union	HACT	Housing Associations Charitable Trust
EVDC	England Volunteering Development Council	HC	Healthcare Commission
EVM	Excellence in Volunteer Management programme	HCA	Homes and Communities Agency
EVS	Empowering the Voluntary Sector (joint NAVCA/PLP project)	HCOP	Healthier Communities & Older People
EYV	European Year of Volunteering (2011)	HE	Higher Education
F		HealthNet	Health and Social Care Workers' Network
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions	HIMP	Health Improvement and Modernisation Plan
FAWN	Funding Advice Workers' Network	HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
FbRN	Faith-based Regeneration Network	HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
FCAS	Federation of Charity Advice Services	HMT	Her Majesty's Treasury
FCDL	Federation for Community Development Learning	HO	Home Office
FCR	Full Cost Recovery	HR	Human Resources
FE	Further Education	HRD Resource	Human Resource Development
FPS	Free Professional Services	HSE	Health and Safety Executive
FSB	Fundraising Standards Board	I	
FSO	Forum Support Organisation	IAG	Information Advice and Guidance
G		ICAS	Independent Complaints Advocacy Service
GAYE	Give As You Earn	ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
GLA	Greater London Authority	IEG	Implementing Electronic Government statement
		IfL	Institute for Learning

IFNUK	Inter Faith Network for the UK	JRF	Joseph Rowntree Foundation
liP	Investors in People	JSA	Job Seekers' Allowance
liV	Investing in Volunteers quality standard	JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
liVE	Investing in Volunteers for Employers quality standard	L	
		LA	Local Authority
ILP	Improving Local Partnerships	LAA	Local Area Agreement
		LAP	Local Action Plan
IMCA	Independent Mental Capacity Advocate	LASA	London Advice Services Alliance
INP	Infrastructure National Partnership	LBGU	London Borough Grants Unit
IPCC	Independent Police Complaints Commission	LCPU	Local Commissioning and Procurement Unit
IPPR	Institute for Public Policy Research	LCSB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
IRT	Identification, Referral and Tracking	LDA	Local Development Agency
IS	Improving Support	LEA	Local Education Authority
ISA	Independent Safeguarding Authority	LEGI	Local Enterprise Growth Initiative
ISBN	International Standard Book Number	LEI	Local Employment Initiative
ISO	Infrastructure Support Organisation	LEP	Local Economic Partnership
ISP	Internet Service Provider	LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
IVR	Institute for Volunteering Research	LETS	Local Exchange Trading System
J		LGA	Local Government Association
JAR	Joint Area Review		
JCB	Joint Commissioning Board	LGB	Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual
		LGBTQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered or Questioning
JIP	Joint Investment Programme (Health & Social Services)	LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered
JR	Judicial Review		
JRCT	Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	LG	Local Government
		LGE	Local Government Employers

LIF	Local Initiatives Fund	N	
LIFT	Local Improvement Finance Trust (NHS LIFT)	NACRO	National Association for Care and Resettlement of Offenders
LINKs	Local Involvement Networks (for health and social care)	NASD	National Association for Sports Development
LINX	Local Infrastructure News eXtra (NAVCA's email bulletin)	NAVCA	National Association for Voluntary and Community Action
LIO	Local infrastructure Organisation (now referred to as Local Support and Development Organisation)	NAWO	National Alliance of Women's Organisations
LIT	Local Implementation Team	NCC	National Consumer Council
LRD	Labour Research Department	NCVO	National Council for Voluntary Organisations
LSC	Learning and Skills Council	NCVYS	National Council for Voluntary Youth Services
LSC	Legal Services Commission	NDC	New Deal for Communities
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children's Bureau	NDC	National Disability Council
LSDO	Local Support and Development Organisation	NDPB	Non Departmental Public Body (Quango)
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership	NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
LVDA	Local Volunteering Development Agency	NEF	New Economics Foundation
M		NEP	National Equalities Partnership
MAA	Multi Area Agreement	NESTA	National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts
MCA	Mental Capacity Act	NFP	Not for profit
MEP	Member of European Parliament	NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
MHF	Mental Health Foundation	NHS	National Health Service
MIS	Management Information Systems	NHSE	National Health Service Executive
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement	NI	National Insurance
MV	Millennium Volunteers	NIACE	National Institute of Adult and Continuing Education

NICE	National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence	O OCN OCS	Open College Network Office for Civil Society (Cabinet Office)
NICEC	National Institute for Carers and Educational Counselling	OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education
NICVA	Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action	OGC	Office of Government Commerce
NIMHE	National Institute for Mental Health in England	OHS	Occupational Health Service
NIP	National Infrastructure Partnership	OISC	Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner
NJC	National Joint Council (for Local Government Services)	OJEU	Official Journal of the European Union
NLC	National Lottery Commission	ONS	Office for National Statistics
NNDR	National Non Domestic Rate	OU OWW	Open University One World Week
NOCN	National Open College Network	P PAF	Performance Assessment Framework
NOMS	National Offender Management Service	PAT	Policy Action Team
NPS	National Procurement Strategy	PAYE PC	Pay As You Earn Patients' Council
NRF	Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	PCO	Primary Care Organisations
NSF	National Service Framework	PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
NSNR	National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal	PCT PDF	Primary Care Trust Portable Document Format
NSS	National Support Services	PF	Patients' Forum
NTO	National Training Organisation	PFI PIC	Private Finance Initiative Public Interest Company
NVMF	National Volunteer Managers Forum	PLA	Participatory Learning and Action
NVQ	National Vocational Qualifications	PLA	Pre School Learning Alliance
NWDA	North West Development Agency	PLP PPI	Public Law Project Patient and Public Involvement
NYA	National Youth Agency		

PPP	Public Private Partnership (similar to PFI above)	RNID	Royal National Institute for Deaf People
PQASSO	Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations	ROTA	Race on the Agenda
PQQ	Pre-Qualification Questionnaire	ROW	Rights of Women
PROD	Public Request to Order Disposal	RPI	Retail Price Index
PTLLS	Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector	RSA	Royal Society of Arts
PSA	Public Service Agreement	RSI	Repetitive Strain Injury
PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism (Prevent)	RSIN	Rural Stress Information Network
PVI	Private, Voluntary and Independent sector	RSL	Registered Social Landlord
		RSS	Really Simple Syndication or Rich Site Summary (webfeeds)
		RSVP	Retired and Senior Volunteers Programme
		RVSN	Regional Voluntary Sector Network
Q			
QSTG	Quality Standards Task Group	S	
QTLS	Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills	SACRE	Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education
		SBS	Small Business Service
R		SCIE	Social Care Institute for Excellence
RAISE	Regional Action and Involvement South East	SCS	Sustainable Community Strategy
RAWM	Regional Action West Midlands	SCVO	Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
RCC(s)	Rural Community Council(s)	SDA	Sex Discrimination Act
RCE	Regional Centre of Excellence	SEAN	Social Enterprise Advisors' Network
RCO	Refugee Community Organisations	SHA	Strategic Health Authority
RDA	Regional Development Agency	SING	Sexuality Issues Network Group
RDA	Rural Development Area	SIR	Strong Independent Roots (NAVCA publication)
REACH	Retired Executives Action Clearing House	SKiLD	Skills and Knowledge for Local Development
RIN	Rural Issues Network	SLA	Service Level Agreement
RNIB	Royal National Institute for the Blind		

SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-related	TSO TSNLA	Third Sector Organisation Third Sector National Learning Alliance
SME	Small or Medium Sized Enterprise	TUC TUPE	Trades Union Congress Transfer of Undertakings (Provision of Employment) Regulations 1981
SMP	Statutory Maternity Pay		
SOFA	Standard of Financial Activity		
SORP	Statement of Recommended Practice (charity accounts)	U UCE	Unsolicited Commercial Email (spam)
SQS	Sector Qualification Strategy	UDC	Urban Development Corporation
SR	Spending Review	Ufi	University for Industry
SRB	Single Regeneration Budget	UKVF URC	UK Volunteering Forum Urban Regeneration Company
SRI	Socially Responsible Investment	URL	Uniform Resource Locator (for access to the internet)
SSC	Sector Skills Council		
SSCF	Safer & Stronger Communities Fund	V	
SSD	Social Services Department	VA VAT	Voluntary Action Value Added Tax
SSE	School for Social Entrepreneurs	VBS	Vetting and Barring Scheme
SSP	Statutory Sick Pay	VBS	Volunteer Brokerage Scheme
SSP	Sub-regional Strategic Partnership	VC	Volunteer Centre
SSRG	Social Services Research Group	VCANet	Voluntary and Community Action Network
SWF	South West Forum	VCFS	Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats	VCO(s)	Voluntary and Community Organisation(s)
T		VCS	Voluntary and Community Sector
TCD	Trainers and Consultants Direct	VDA	Volunteer Development Agency
TNA	Training Needs Analysis	VE	Volunteering England
TPAS	Tenants Participation Advisory Service	VFI	Voluntary Finance Initiative
TSF	Third Sector Forum	VFM	Value for Money
TSO	The Stationery Office		

VIO	Volunteer Involving Organisation	WEEE	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EU Directive)
VOCOSE	Voluntary, Community and Social Economy	WEETU	Women's Employment Enterprise and Training Unit
VONNE	Voluntary Organisations Network North East	WEN	Women's Environment Network
VSNT0	Voluntary Sector National Training Organisation	WF	Work Foundation
VSO	Voluntary Service Overseas	WNF	Working Neighbourhood Fund
VSSN	Voluntary Sector Studies Network	WRC	Women's Resource Centre
VW	Volunteers' Week	WRVS	Women's Royal Voluntary Service
W			
WAI	Web Accessibility Initiative	Y	
WCVA	Wales Council for Voluntary Action	YOT	Youth Offending Team
WEA	Workers' Education Association		

Please send suggestions for further acronyms and abbreviations to navca@navca.org.uk

Use of acronyms and abbreviations

Just a reminder to use acronyms and abbreviations carefully: over-use can make your text inaccessible and confusing. For more information see the Plain English Campaign website, www.plainenglish.co.uk

Jargon busters

This guide is also available on our website, along with links to jargon busters from other organisations. See: www.navca.org.uk/localvs/acronyms