

Community Glossary

Asset-based community development	A strengths-based approach, and acknowledged that that local assets (people, physical assets etc.) and individual strengths are key to ensure sustainable community development.
Beneficiary	Anyone who might benefit from the activity of the museum or the community group.
Capacity building	Anything which will increase the capacity of the voluntary sector or community to provide services, act, or affect change, but it also can be related to skills development.
Charity, Charitable organisations	Organisations, voluntary or community, that are registered with the Charity Commission (in England and Wales), OSCR (Scotland) or Charity Commission Northern Ireland.
Communities of interest	Groups where members have common needs or characteristics (such as ethnic origin, disability, interest in open source software) as opposed to geographical communities (communities of place).
Community development	A collective process whereby members of a community come together to effect change within the community based.
CIC, Community Interest Company	When social enterprises become limited companies while meeting particular concerns such as protecting assets for community use, essentially a social enterprise that is not a charity in itself but may be owned by one.
(S) CIO, (Scottish) Charitable incorporated organisation	An organisation can register as a company and a charity at the same time.
Community sector	Organisations active on a local or community level, and largely dependent on voluntary, rather than paid, effort. Can be seen as distinct from the larger, staffed agencies which are most visible in voluntary sector.

NGO, Non- governmental organisation	Usually equivalent to voluntary organisations; most often used in an international, development or environment setting.
Quango - Quasi- autonomous non- governmental organisation.	Bodies set up by government with a specific remit and their own governing body, although usually with appointments made by or via the government. Some may be registered charities but tend not to be viewed as part of the voluntary sector more as part of the statutory sector.
SLA, Service level agreement	A type of contract where (typically) a public body agrees to pay a set sum of money in return for a specified level of service, which may be quantified in terms like 'number of clients advised' in a given period, and to what standard. This may be seen in social prescribing or other commissioned work.
Stakeholders	Someone who has a vested interest in the work an organisation: member, volunteer, staff, management, board member, funder or contracting body, client, 'community of interest' such as locality or grouping of people who might benefit (beneficiaries).
Statutory sector	These organisations or services are the responsibility of government and have been established by law, for example National Health Service.
Third sector	Part of an economy or society comprising non-governmental and non-profit-making organisations or associations, including charities, voluntary and community groups, cooperatives.
Umbrella Body	An organisation which supports others operating in a particular area (geographic, activity or function), potentially providing infrastructure or other support.
Voluntary sector	There are many definitions and refinements of this term, for example - SCVO states that a voluntary organisation is: non-profit distributing, non-statutory, autonomous, may be charitable. The term is sometimes used when organisations fall between private and public sector and often in this instance it is known as the Third sector.