

Welcome



Agenda for today



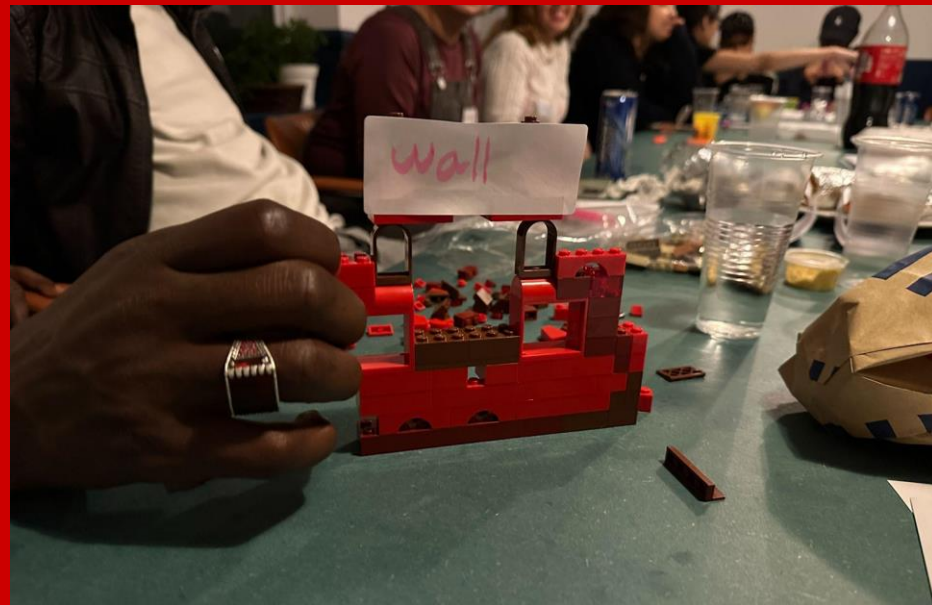
- ❑ Welcome & Introduction
- ❑ Community organising and organising in health
- ❑ Meet and Learn from community organisers
- ❑ Reflections



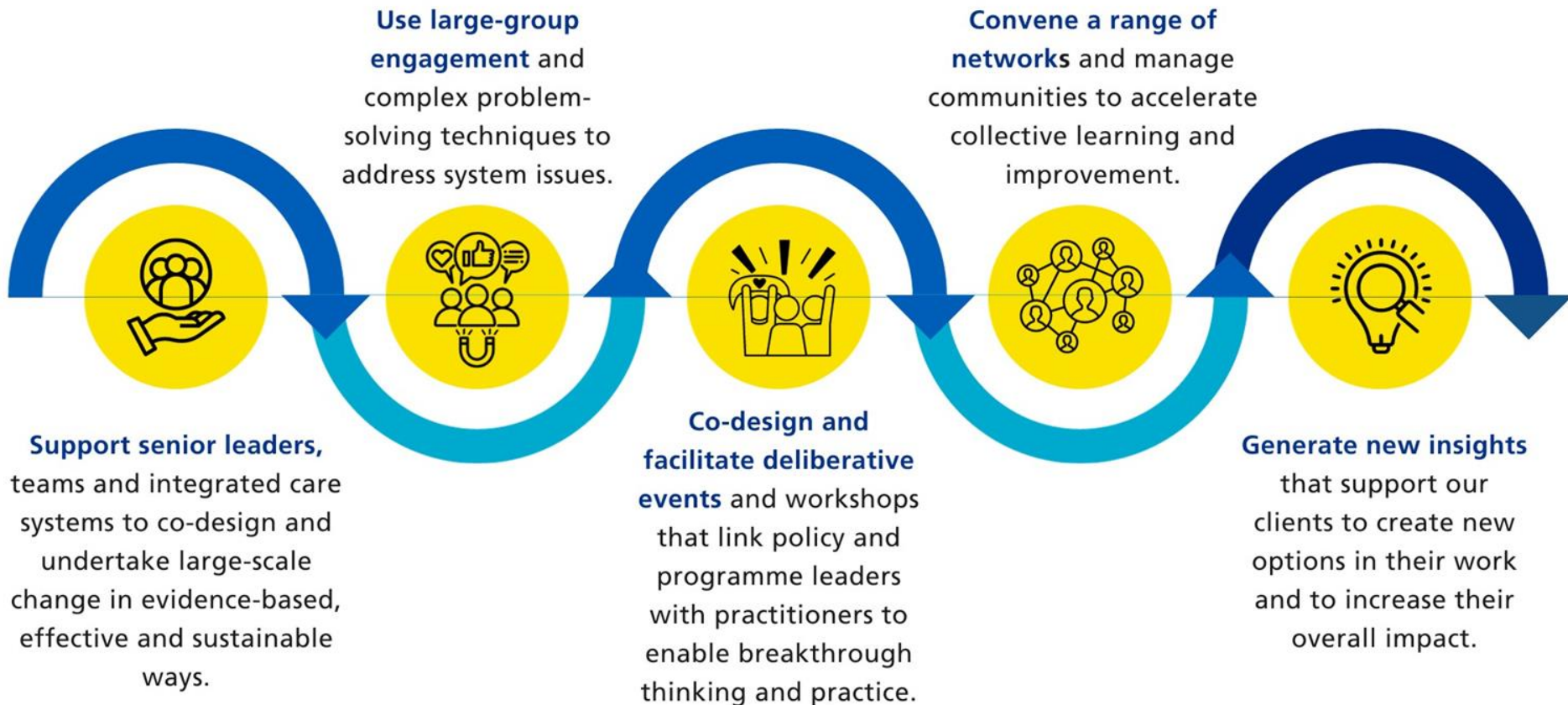
Act Build Change is a transformative organising school. Our mission is to make the methods of organising and collective care accessible to everyone who wants to end injustice in their lives and to build better worlds for all of us.



Getting Kinship Care on the National Agenda



National Survivor User Network (NSUN) - reimagining safeguarding for young people with experience of mental ill-health



Horizons Partnerships

NHS Horizons creates leverage for NHS England by working through its extensive partnership networks

Formal Partners

A formal partner is an organisation with whom we have a formal agreement or contract to work together towards a specific goal or project.



Regular collaborators

A regular collaborator is an organisation who works with us on a frequent and ongoing basis towards a shared goal or project.



Social Connections



Over 3 million monthly interactions on social media



- 1600+ members of our 3 networks:
- Proud2bOps
- Improvement Directors Network
- Community of Action - Spread and Scale



Change Model

A framework for any project or programme that is seeking to achieve transformational, sustainable change



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How many people have learnt to ride a bike?



An Organiser Asks



Grapevine Coventry and Warwickshire's Coventry Youth Activists - Negotiating with Facebook

People

Who are my people and what is their problem?

Power

How can we use our resources in effective ways?

Change

What is the change we seek?

You're an organiser pick the best organising campaign


You are organising in Blackpool. It is a mixed-income area but is mostly working-class. It is one of the most in-debt areas in the country, unemployment soaring, and high numbers of people are on benefits, especially its large elder population. But there are a growing number of homeowner families moving into the area after hundreds of affordable houses were built over the past few years.


You run a listening campaign in the area and these are the top 5 concerns of the people you are meeting.


Rank these organising issues, 1 (best) to 5 (worst)





Rank 1-5

 **ISSUE A:** On a large estate (1000 homes) run by the local council you hear repairs are a major issue. Many are run down, have single-glazing windows and terrible insulation. Residents are saying their fuel bills are huge and some are being forced into debt.

 **ISSUE B:** The cost of living crisis keeps being mentioned and rising food costs are a major concern. The local council is planning to demolish a beautiful old Victorian building to build a cheap supermarket. There is a small group of people who want to save it - the rest of the community is divided on the subject: some say that the building should be protected because of its history. Some want a supermarket because it will bring in jobs and cheap food, while others say it will kill the local shops.

 **ISSUE C:** There is a bad litter problem in the area. The local council has made 80% cuts to street cleaning. “We just need to make savings somewhere, and it’s either this or social care”, says a local councillor. Many residents are angry, as it is causing an increase in vermin in the area, but some blame other members of the community for being messy.

 **ISSUE D:** Bus prices have increased by 30% in the last couple of years and another 15% price rise is planned for 2 months time. Buses are still the cheapest way to get around the city but many people are telling you that they are outraged by the prices.

 **ISSUE E:** The delay in people receiving their benefits when they first become unemployed regularly comes up in meetings and 121’s you have. People have fallen into debt to cover their basic needs during the 5 week waiting period and want this money to be paid immediately instead.

Reflections

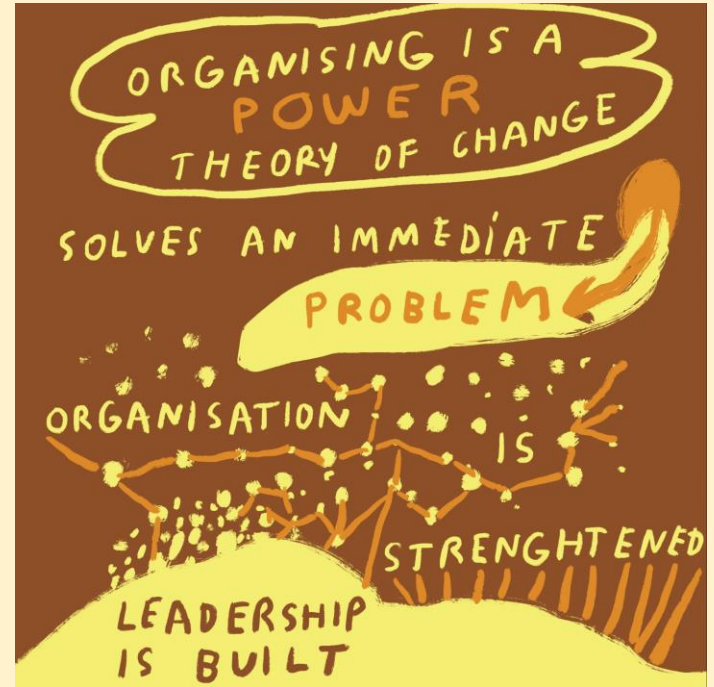
Community organising actions should...

1. Result in a Real Improvement in People's Lives
2. Alter the Relations of Power
3. Be Winnable
4. Be Widely Felt
5. Be Deeply Felt
6. Have a Clear Target
7. Be Non-Divisive
8. Set your organisation up for its next campaign
9. Be Consistent with Your Values and Vision

We create strategy as an answer to a problem that we need to solve. Or to take advantage of a unique possibility. Strategy is how we turn a vision into a specific goal.

Strategy:

1. Is creative.
2. Is a process that builds and repeats.
3. Requires common effort.
4. Has a clear goal.
5. Is a verb
6. Builds leadership of our people



Learning from Community Organisers

The Safe Sick Pay campaign

#SafeSickPay @Prog_Change @EmmaKosmin



The campaign began with interviews with 500 cleaners across London in 2021/22. The research identified three big problems with Statutory Sick Pay in the UK:

1. It is much too low - at the moment just £116.75 a week
2. Paid from the fourth day of sickness
3. 1.4 million people not covered at all because of the 'Lower Earnings Limit'

We are building a cross-party coalition around this issue, and organising in parts of the UK where there are key decision-makers.

More than a third of surveyed UK cleaners have worked while ill

Low-paid cleaners unable to claim sick pay are working while unwell, research finds

Current campaign: Ilford North



The Member of Parliament for Ilford North is called Wes Streeting.

He is the shadow Labour Party lead for health and social care, and a key decision maker on sick pay in our left-of-centre party in the UK.

Stages in the campaign:

1. Researching Wes and the area. Considering his 'self-interest' and the people he is close to or cares about.
2. Building a team, holding 121 'relational' meetings.
3. Preparing a letter to Wes Streeting which asks for a meeting with the team.

The team includes health experts, charities and disabled people's organisations, and local groups such as faith and community groups.

#SafeSickPay @Prog_Change @EmmaKosmin



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“There was no visible way to make change. I had a sense of not knowing how to start with an idea for change. People felt alone. They knew there were others out there with a shared passion, but how to find them? ... Now, I feel inspired. The people power is out there. The tools are there to organise and unite.” Local Resident



Ball Hill

September 2022

"We want Ball Hill to be a destination again"

What we did:

- *Listening campaign*
- *Built relationships - 1:1's*
- *Identified leadership*
- *Created structure*
- *Strategised*
- *Planned action*



"Connecting For Good has been invaluable in that it made a small idea become a big idea, giving the group the confidence and steer to approach community work from a different point of view i.e. the power comes from within, not from the top down."

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- *Building relationships with local cllrs and their MP*
- *Hosted 2 large community action meetings*
- *Collected air quality data*
- *Organised a citizens jury*
- *Held a citizens assembly*
- *Developed a green transport plan for Ball Hill which they are using to push through recommendations*
- *Collected 400 petitions to support the need for a banking hub*
- *Over 140 sigs on another for a community hub*

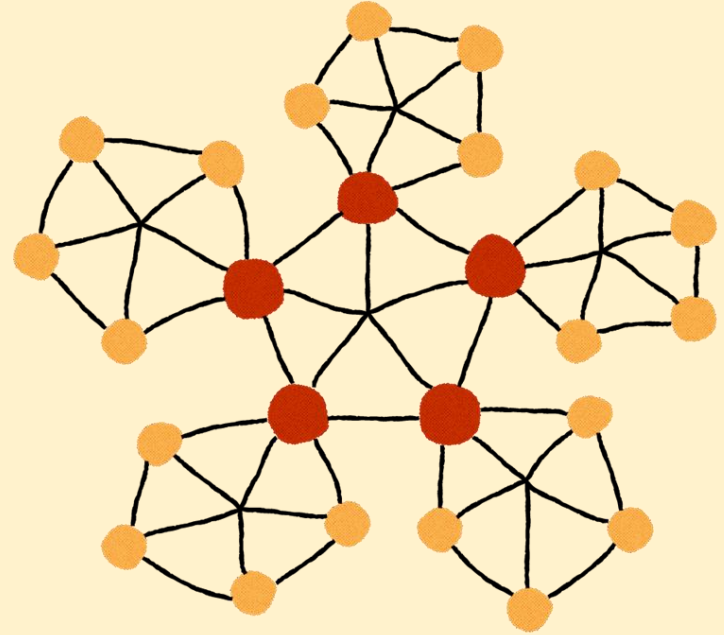
Reflections



Alicia Garza, Co-Founder Black Lives Matter

“One can wake up in the morning feeling empowered—but empowerment is different from power. Power is about who makes the rules, and the reality is that most of us lack real power, even over the decisions that are closest to us. Sure, I am empowered to decide what I eat for breakfast today, but larger forces create the options I can choose from—or whether or not breakfast is even available to me.”

What could you do now
without any additional tools
or resources?



Thankyou

