

# Advice for Teaching Critical Thinking



## Voluntary Sector Resource



**MAKE  
SURE IT  
ADDS UP**

# Introduction

Voluntary Sector organisations are vital parts of the community - they are well connected, rooted in the community and are trusted by the people they work with. This means you are aware of the impact of Hate Crime on individuals and communities. It also means that you come up against rumours and false information all the time.

Bradford for Everyone has launched the Make Sure it Adds Up campaign. Its overarching **aim is to reduce hate crime in the Bradford District and improve the lives of the most vulnerable communities.** A critical part of this is to promote Critical Thinking as a way to counteract rumours and the spreading of false information.



## What is Critical Thinking?

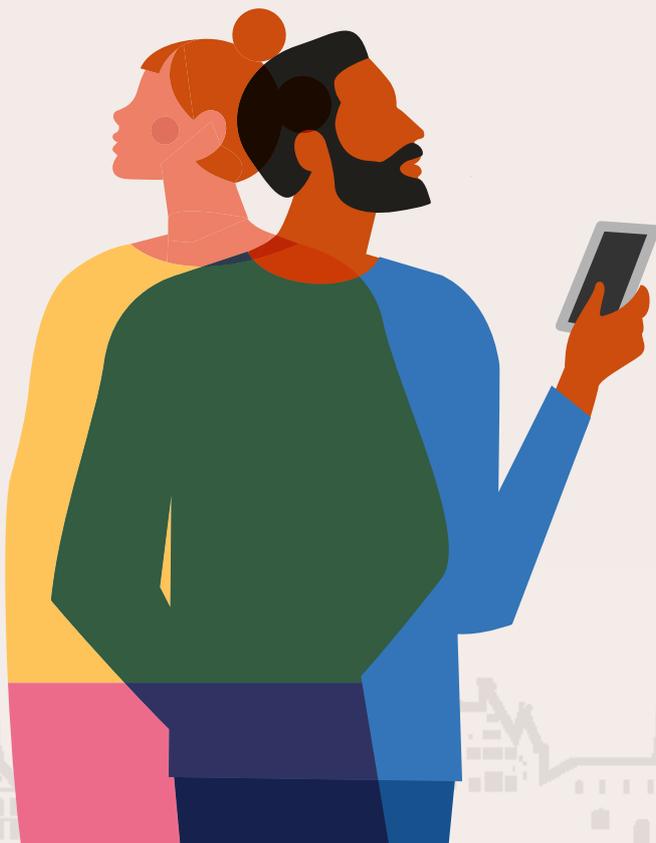
**Critical thinking is the ability to think clearly and rationally, understanding the logical connection between ideas.** Critical thinking might be described as the ability to reflect and think independently. When we think critically we are able to safely and respectfully question ideas and assumptions rather than simply accepting them. Exploring different viewpoints and finding out if ideas, arguments and even news and rumour represent the full picture. Critical thinking allows us to identify, explore and solve problems in a balanced, measured and constructive way.



# Why is **critical thinking** relevant for VCS organisations?

## It's vital to everything you do

- **Many organisations will have aims to promote cohesion, address discrimination or disadvantage.** Rumours and false information can undermine cohesion, increase discrimination and entrench disadvantage. By encouraging critical thinking you can therefore help achieve these aims.
- **Organisations are often set up to support vulnerable communities, individuals or families.** Vulnerable people can be the most affected by rumours and false information. By encouraging critical thinking you can therefore help achieve your aims.
- **Critical thinking will also help build the skills and resilience** of the people you work with and your staff and volunteers.



# Why is **critical thinking** relevant for VCS organisations?

## There is a Social / Moral imperative

**Most organisations and their staff and volunteers will also feel a broader social and moral imperative to support their clients and communities.** Addressing discrimination will already be a key part of what you do. Critical thinking will provide another tool to help.

There is no law that says you have to embed critical thinking in your organisation and few funders would explicitly use that phrase. Critical thinking can help you to meet key obligations to funders and to consider and deliver when it comes to legal, financial and reputational drivers and obligations.

As organisations, the organisation, its trustees, staff and volunteers have legal obligations to prevent discrimination under the Equalities Act. If your organisation or people associated with it are promoting rumours, this could undermine your legal obligations. Improving critical thinking should make it less likely that you would share rumours even by accident. Charities have further obligations to follow charity law and Charity Commission guidance.

Funders will often have expectations of how organisations should behave and these will be built into funding agreements or contracts. There will usually be obligations around promoting equality and diversity. Critical thinking can help you fulfil these obligations.

**Helping the people in your organisation to recognise rumour and know how to employ critical thinking can improve the wellbeing of everyone and support your team in offering advice safely.**

Rumour and misinformation can undermine your organisation and the work you do. Supporting your staff, volunteers or the people you support in recognising, and disseminating rumours and misinformation is important. Helping them to employ critical thinking can help them to promote equality and diversity.



# How do I find out more about Critical Thinking?



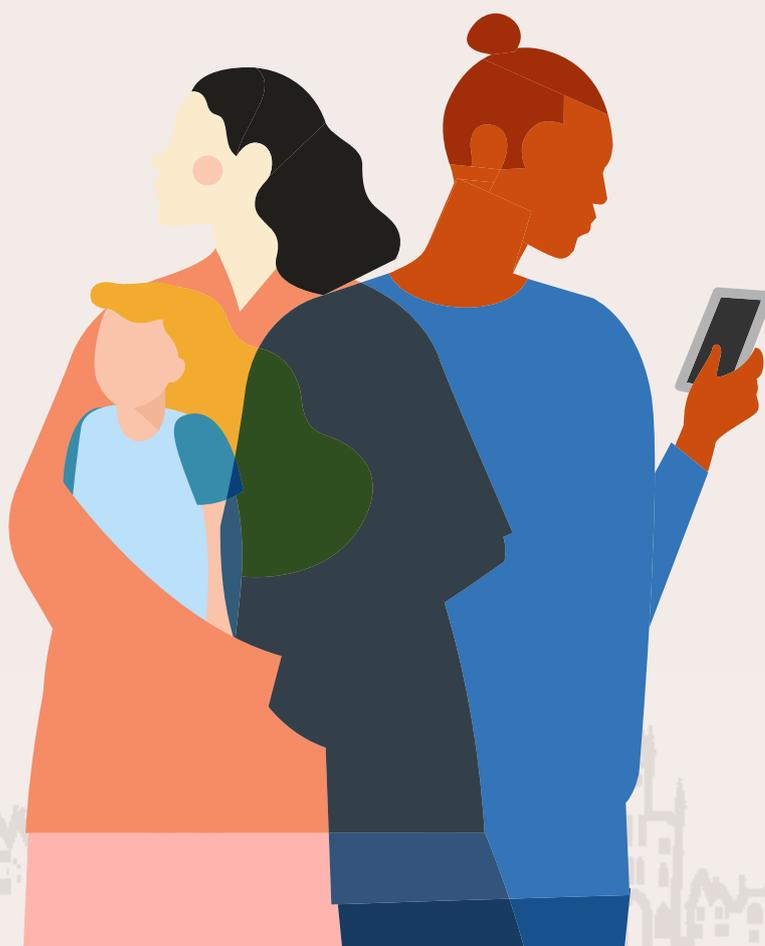
The Make Sure it Adds Up Campaign have produced a toolkit to support you with Critical Thinking.

**Download it at:**  
[bradfordforeveryone.co.uk](http://bradfordforeveryone.co.uk)



Community Action will be running training to help you use the toolkit.

**More information available at:** [www.cabad.org.uk](http://www.cabad.org.uk)



# Suggested session planning layout

1

## Introductions

- Overview of session
- Explain Critical Thinking
- Why it's important to VCS organisations
- Introduce toolkit and its materials
- How to use and adapt the toolkit

2

## Background

- Bradford for Everyone
- Hate Crime
- Rumours
- Make Sure it Adds Up

3

## Introductory Activity using a resource from the toolkit

4

## What is Critical Thinking

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## Explanations

- The ability to reflect and think independently
- When we think critically we are able to safely and respectfully question ideas and assumptions rather than simply accepting them.
- Exploring different viewpoints, finding out if ideas, arguments and even news and rumour represent the full picture.
- Identify, explore and solve problems in a balanced, measured and constructive way
- Critical Thinking vs Myth-busting



# Suggested session planning layout

6

**Activity or exercise determined by the facilitator**

7

**Why is critical thinking important?**

8

**Why critical thinking is relevant for VCS organisations**

- It's vital to everything you do:
  - Aims/ Purposes / skills and resilience
  - Social / Moral imperative
- Legal, financial and reputational drivers, Equalities Act, funders expectations



View our Briefing Sheet in the downloadable toolkit folder

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**About the toolkit**

- Overview of contents
- Design features
- Modular nature



# Suggested session planning layout

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## How to use the toolkit

11

### Activity: Using one or more of the resources

Discussion: Reflection in two parts;

- How did you respond to the activity?
- How could you use in your organisation, picking up on areas highlighted in the toolkit.

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### Things to think about in terms of delivery:

- Audiences: who is your audience? (staff, volunteers, young people, adults, etc)
- What is the best way to reach them? (Learning styles, comms preferences)

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### Planning

- Different ways of delivering
- Training sessions
- Bite-size learning
- Social media
- Evaluation
- Adapting materials
- How to adapt / add your materials



# Next Steps



Become a Make Sure it Adds Up' Training organisation.

**Sign up to the campaign at:**  
[bradfordforeveryone.co.uk](http://bradfordforeveryone.co.uk)



BRADFORD DISTRICT

