

The background image is a coastal scene at sunset. In the foreground, a large, curling wave is visible on the left side. The beach is in the middle ground, and in the background, there is an industrial facility with various structures, including a tall chimney and storage tanks, silhouetted against the colorful sky. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon where the sun is setting.

# CAN-E

CHANGE ALLIANCE  
NORTH-EAST

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT FOR A  
STRONGER, FAIRER NORTH EAST**

# WHY DOES THE CAN-E EXIST?

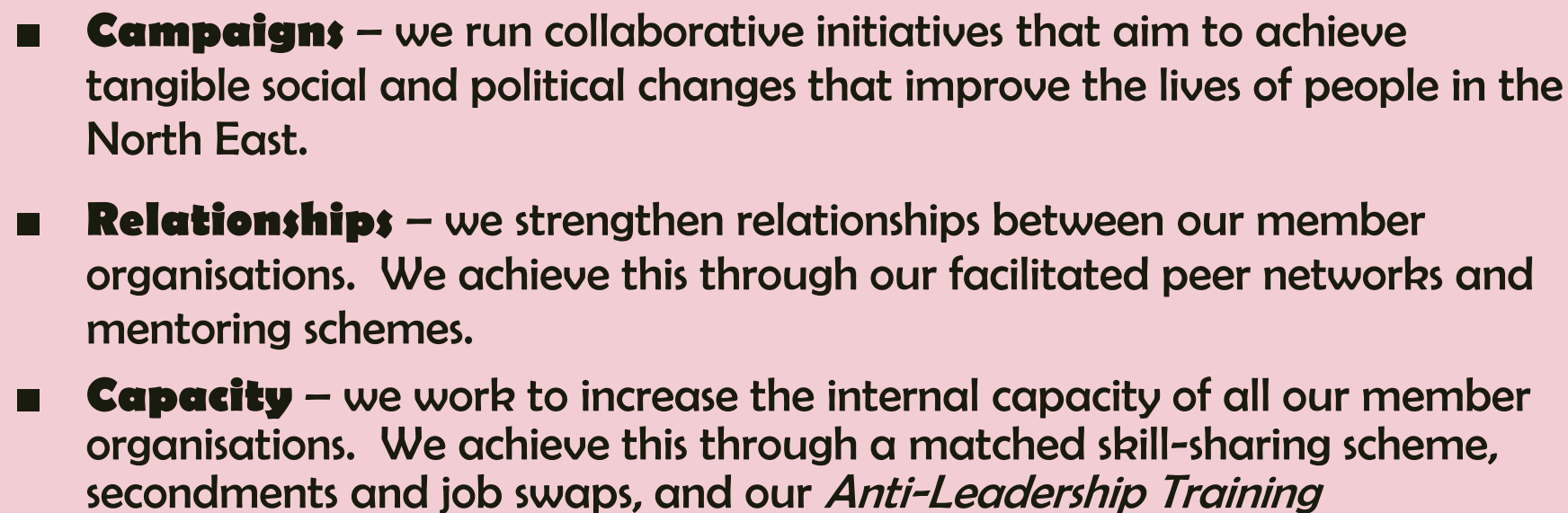


The Change Alliance: North East (CAN-E) is working to make the region a better, fairer and more sustainable place to live and work by bringing together a diverse coalition of voluntary and community organisations, local authorities, social enterprises, unions, companies, universities, funders and schools.

- Our region is a special place. We built the ships and dug the coal that powered the Industrial Revolution. We had the first street in the world to be lit by electricity, and the first home to be lit by hydroelectricity. From our strong industrial past, we can boast about our dual gifts for innovation and reinvention.
- Over the last ten years, we've seen the North East battered by austerity. We've seen rents and utility bills go up. Time with family and security of work have gone down. We still have the highest unemployment rate in the country.
- We are all part of a shared system, but that system is failing. We have a fragmented social sector, with weak individual organisations, massive scale and diversity of challenges, and no signs of growing support from central government. Current arrangements have not proven to support organisations in a way that has led to concrete change. To create better outcomes for our region and our people, we need the system to function better.
- Inspired by the [Sydney Alliance](#), the CAN-E exists to improve lives by changing the system. By building peer support and shared power, we encourage the 'collective bravery' to develop and persevere with new approaches. We provide an environment that enables everyone to have a voice, to trust each other enough to disagree and debate, and to work together to tackle the problems that are bigger than any one organisation can solve. We don't have all the answers, but we believe we're much more likely to find them working closely together.

# WHAT DOES THE CAN-E DO?

The CAN-E works in three ways to change the system and create better outcomes for our region:

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- **Campaigns** – we run collaborative initiatives that aim to achieve tangible social and political changes that improve the lives of people in the North East.
  - **Relationships** – we strengthen relationships between our member organisations. We achieve this through our facilitated peer networks and mentoring schemes.
  - **Capacity** – we work to increase the internal capacity of all our member organisations. We achieve this through a matched skill-sharing scheme, secondments and job swaps, and our *Anti-Leadership Training*

# WHO IS THE CAN-E?



- The CAN-E is made up of fee-paying member organisations. Each partner organisation is a member of the CAN-E and contributes to the collective work and the social change initiatives.
- By becoming a member, an organisation agrees to devote staff time, political influence and in-kind support to the collective work of the CAN-E.
- In addition to the members, the work of the CAN-E is supported by a small, paid team of organisers.

## HOW DOES THE CAN-E WORK?

- The CAN-E is run by the CAN-E Council, which is made up of two representatives from each member organisation. The Council decides the long-term strategy and the specific initiatives for the CAN-E.
- Having decided on a specific action initiative, we form *Research Action & Campaign Teams*, drawn from members of our partner organisations. Each action team has a lead member, and all action teams report to the CAN-E Council.



## WHERE DOES THE CAN-E OPERATE?

- The CAN-E operates in the area south of the Scottish border, north of Yorkshire, and east of Cumbria.

## WHEN DOES THE CAN-E MEET?

- CAN-E Council meetings are held four times a year to co-ordinate the strategy and action of the CAN-E, at venues that rotate around the region.
- Meetings of Research Action & Campaign Teams will occur more frequently, as decided by the Team Leaders.
- The CAN-E will also hold 2-4 public events each year to raise awareness of the CAN-E and the specific initiatives being pursued.

# MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



As an 'early adopter' member of the CAN-E, you will receive:

- Free 'Anti-Leadership Training' for your organisation for the first six members, worth £3000 (thereafter heavily discounted for subsequent members).
- Access to our matched skill-sharing scheme (member organisations working together to replicate what they do well in other organisations) to increase the internal capacity of all our member organisations.
- Access to our secondment, job swap, and mentoring schemes.
- Access to invitation-only facilitated member networks events, designed to strengthen relationships between member organisations.
- On-call support from CAN-E organisers or member organisations to help you problem solve or tackle issues internal to your organisation.
- The support of other member organisations to help achieve your strategic objectives.
- The opportunity to decide on the collective campaigns run by CAN-E Research Action & Campaign Teams.
- The opportunity to establish to culture of the CAN-E and to shape the long-term future of the region and shape system change through collective power.

## Events

In the first 12 months of the CAN-E, all members will be invited to the following events free of charge:

- A launch event
- Two public CAN-E events, for staff and members of all member organisations
- Four CAN-E Council meetings
- Two facilitated member network events
- One Anti-Leadership taster event for all Council members

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENTS



By agreeing for your organisation to become a member of the CAN-E, you commit to:

- Pay the annual membership fee appropriate to the size of your organisation
- Nominate two staff members or volunteers to sit on the CAN-E council, at least one of whom should be a senior organisational leader
- Attend at least two council meetings per year
- Turn out your staff and members to participate in at least one public CAN-E meeting per year
- Dedicate staff time to CAN-E events and initiatives decided by the CAN-E Council
- Share existing political relationships and influence for the good of the CAN-E
- Offer in-kind support to other CAN-E members e.g. venues, resources, advice, etc.
- Share resources to help strengthen the CAN-E partners
- Respect the unique strengths of each partner organisation
- Invest in building long-term, integrated relationships with other CAN-E members
- Recognise the inevitability of differences in interests and priorities between member organisations and work to manage distinct interests



**Contact us:**  
**info@can-e.co.uk**

Do you want to have a say in  
the future of the North East?

Do you want to act together  
with others who feel the  
same way?

*Then join us!*



Organisation type	Annual membership fee range*
Small-to-medium-sized VCS organisation	£5,000-8,000
Large VCS organisations	£8,000-15,000
Funders and Local Authorities	£15,000-50,000
Universities	£15,000-50,000
Unions and businesses	£15,000-50,000
*We believe members should have some say over what they can afford to contribute.	