

Citizen Network Hits Parliament



2nd September 2025






We fell asleep.
We forgot that they don't take care of us, we take care of each other. We forgot that it's the rich who need the poor, not the poor who need the rich. We forgot that politicians work for us, we don't work for them. We forgot that government doesn't innovate, people do. We forgot that government doesn't create wealth, people do. We forgot that government doesn't know best, people do. We forgot about citizenship, we forgot about families, we forgot about community. We confused good with big. We confused achievement with wealth. We confused love with control. We forgot that the welfare state was built by us, that it belongs to us, and it needs to work for us.
It's time to wake up.

Simon Duffy
Citizen Network

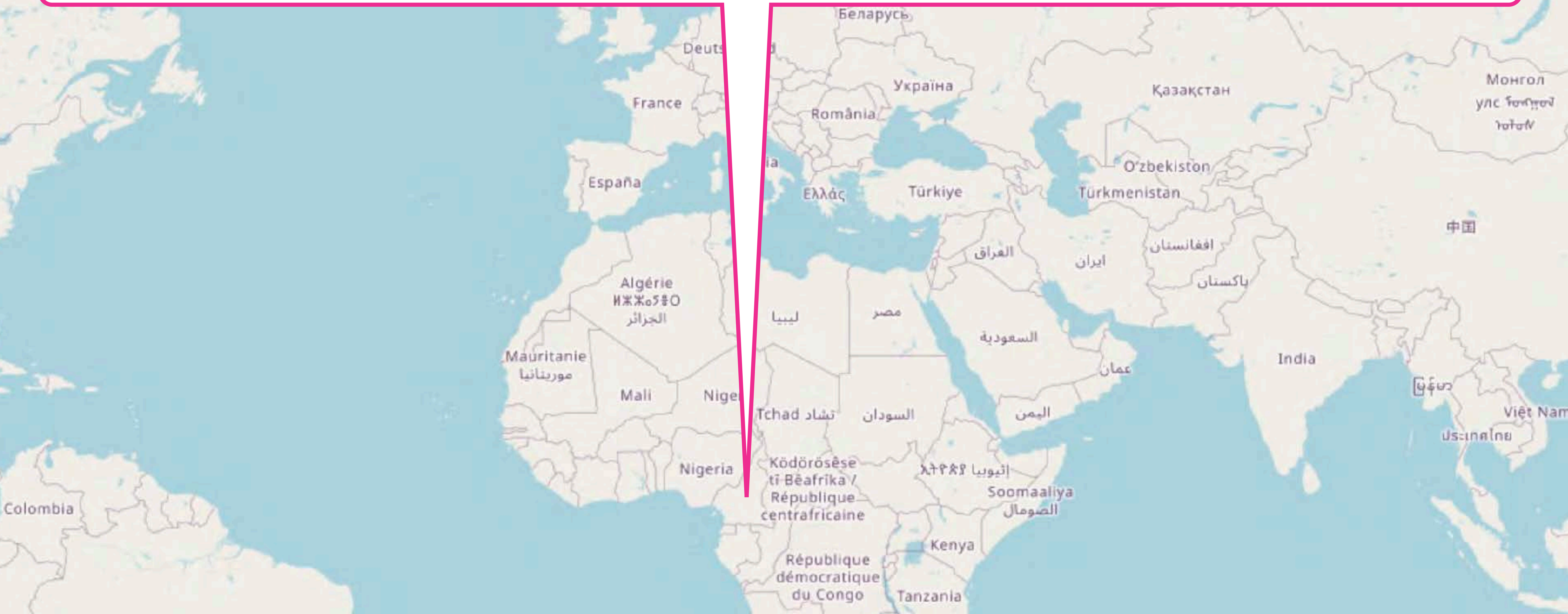




Citizen Network began in 2009.
Today we have 160 Fellows,
6,500 member,
350 groups, across 50 countries.
We share 1,700 free resources.
We developed new ideas like
Basic Income Plus, Real Wealth
and Personalised Transition. We
helped create a range of
organisations and campaigns
including Learning Disability
England, the UBI Lab Network,
iDirect, the Neighbourhood
Democracy Movement and the
global Self-Directed
Support Network.

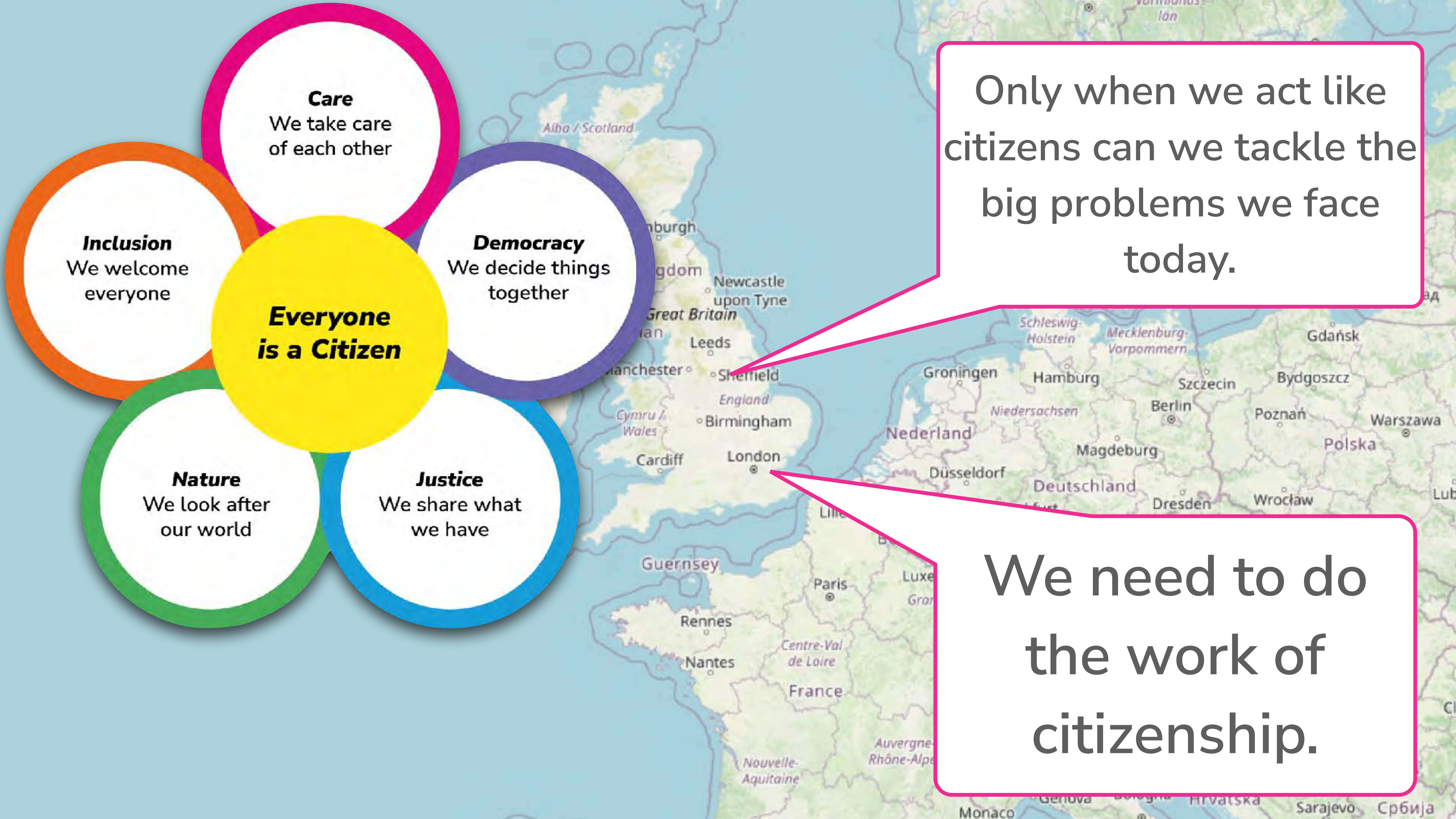
We exist to help create
a world where
everyone matters.

We are NOT consumers, customers, workers, bosses, aspirational, residents, refugees, illegal immigrants, migrants, the homeless, nationals, inhabitants, foreigners, aliens, patients, victims, sufferers, skivers, claimants, recipients, tax payers, hard-working families, troubled families, scroungers, service users, participants, agents, clients etc.





We are **all** CITIZENS.



Care
We take care
of each other

Inclusion
We welcome
everyone

**Everyone
is a Citizen**

Democracy
We decide things
together

Nature
We look after
our world

Justice
We share what
we have

Only when we act like
citizens can we tackle the
big problems we face
today.

We need to do
the work of
citizenship.

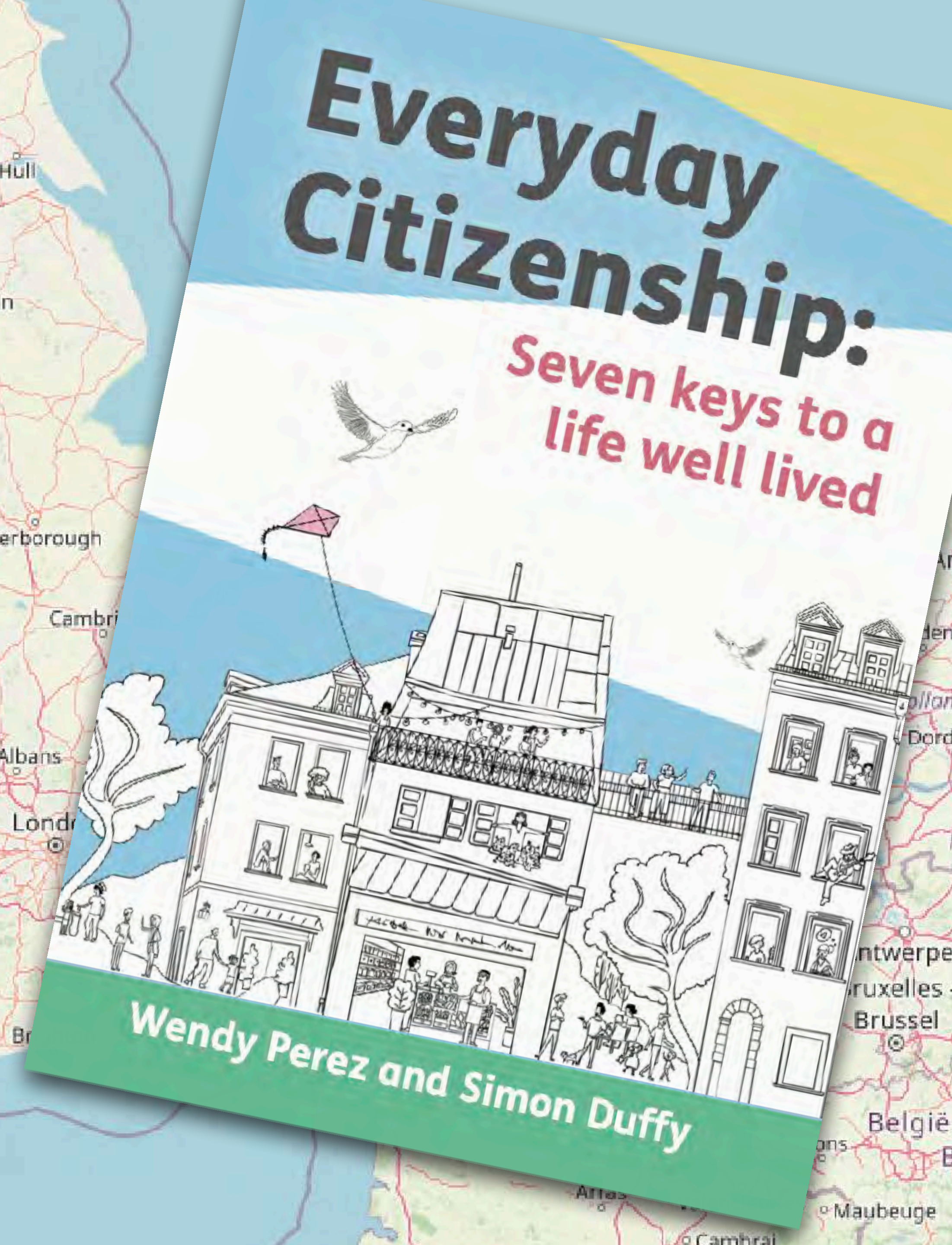
You can read about
our ideas in the
Citizenship Manifesto.

The Citizenship Manifesto:

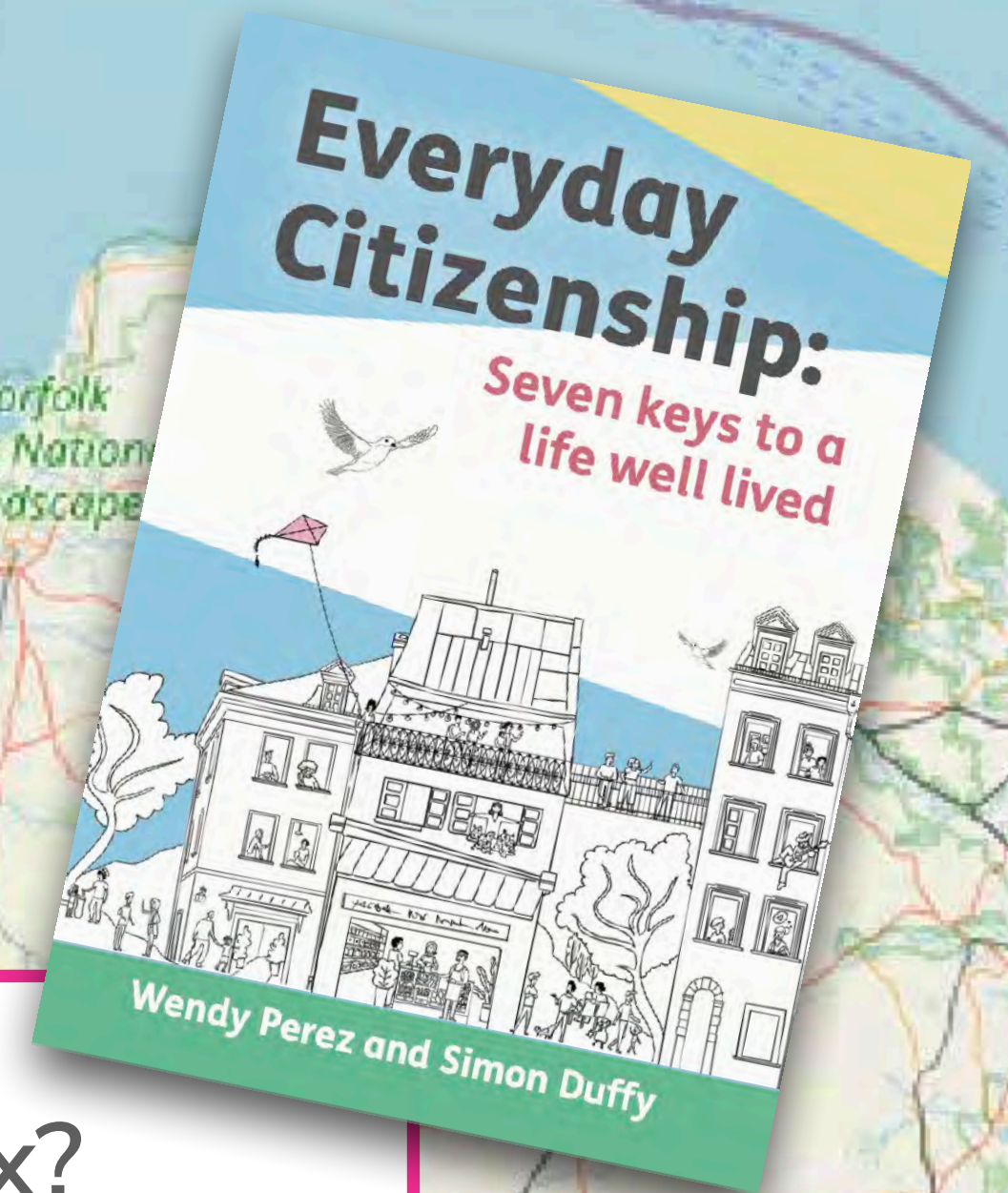
For a world where
everyone matters



This builds on the book
Everyday Citizenship



We are going to share examples of
CITIZEN ACTION and **INNOVATION**
from around England.



“Why am I put in a box?
I need control over my life.”

Wendy Perez, See Me As Me





“Cornwall is creating waves and turning the tide in the commissioning of social care. The framework of the seven keys of citizenship are at the heart of everything we’re doing for people with learning disabilities and autism.”

Karen Hooper, Cornwall Council



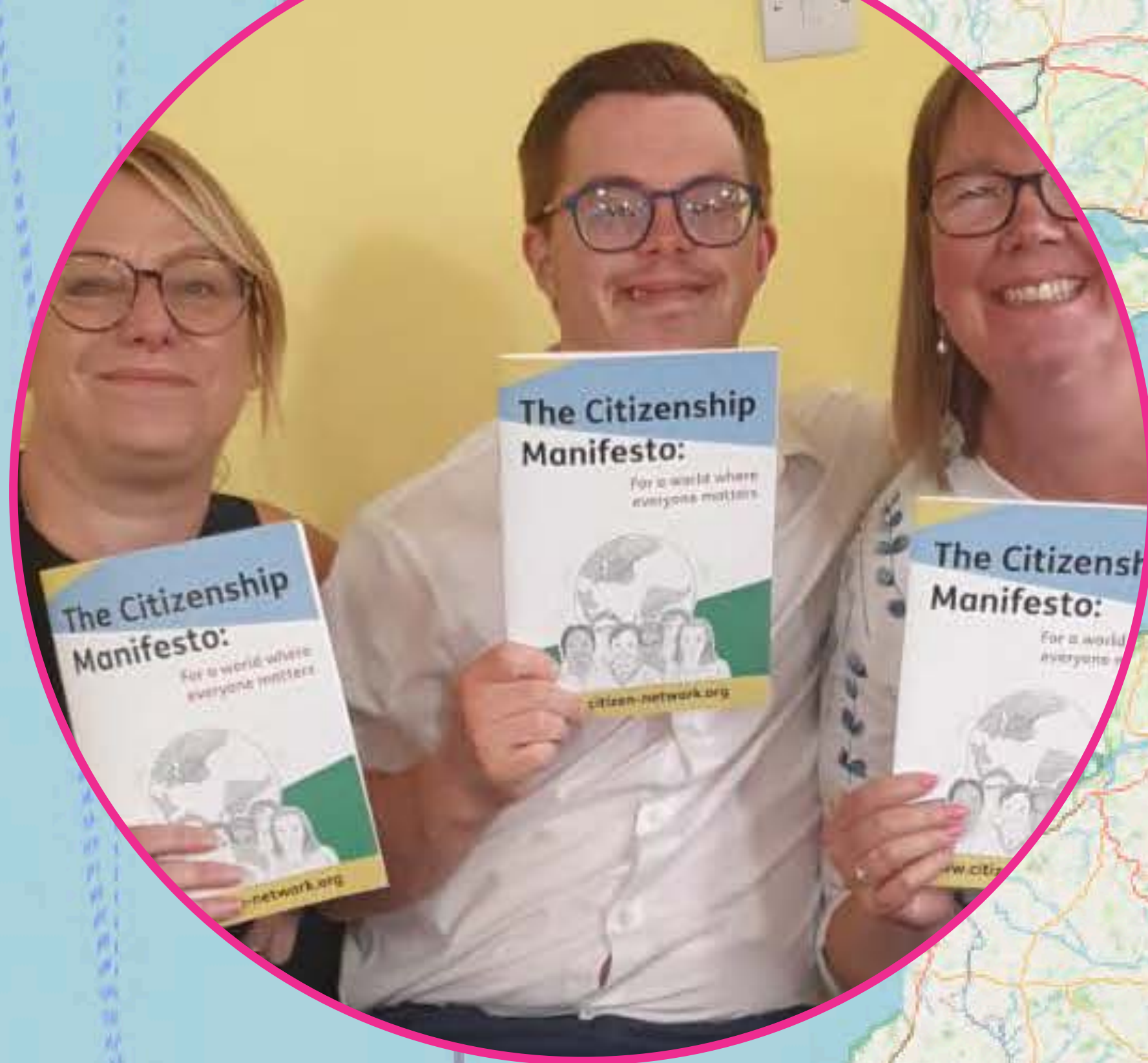
“We are not a burden. We contribute to society in so many different ways. I have expertise in life.”

David Burns, Citizen Checkers

“I want the world to be a more equal, safer, kinder and more human place. Let us remember to see ourselves as humans. We don’t need jargon. We need to slow down and include everyone.”

Judith Woodard, Citizen Checkers





“We all have the power to make the world a better place. We have the power to fight for our human rights. We are heroes. We help people.”

Rory Bray Harper, Citizen Checkers



“We’re helping people find their neighbourhood and build a real home.”

Jenna Pulley, Citizen Checkers



“We rescue people from long stay hospitals and other institutional settings so that they can live as ordinary citizens.”

Vinesh Kumar, iDirect & Hynte



“I coordinate the global SDS Network. We’re the global governance group for best practice in self-directed support with hubs in England, Korea, USA, Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, New Zealand... with more coming. There’s been some progress in England—but it could be so much better.”

Chris Watson, SDS Network





“I am a Global Ambassador for Citizen Network.
I run a social enterprise working on arts, media
and education. And I play the fiddle. ”

Fionn Crombie Angus, Fionnathan Productions



“Our *Abundance* project aims to share citizenship skills, community leadership experience and give people the chance to earn some money.”

Jonathan Angus, Fionnathan Productions



“As someone with lived experience of disability
I share my knowledge to help others feel
included. Everyone has the ability to get on
in life. We just need to help each other.”

Craig Kennedy, Inclusion North

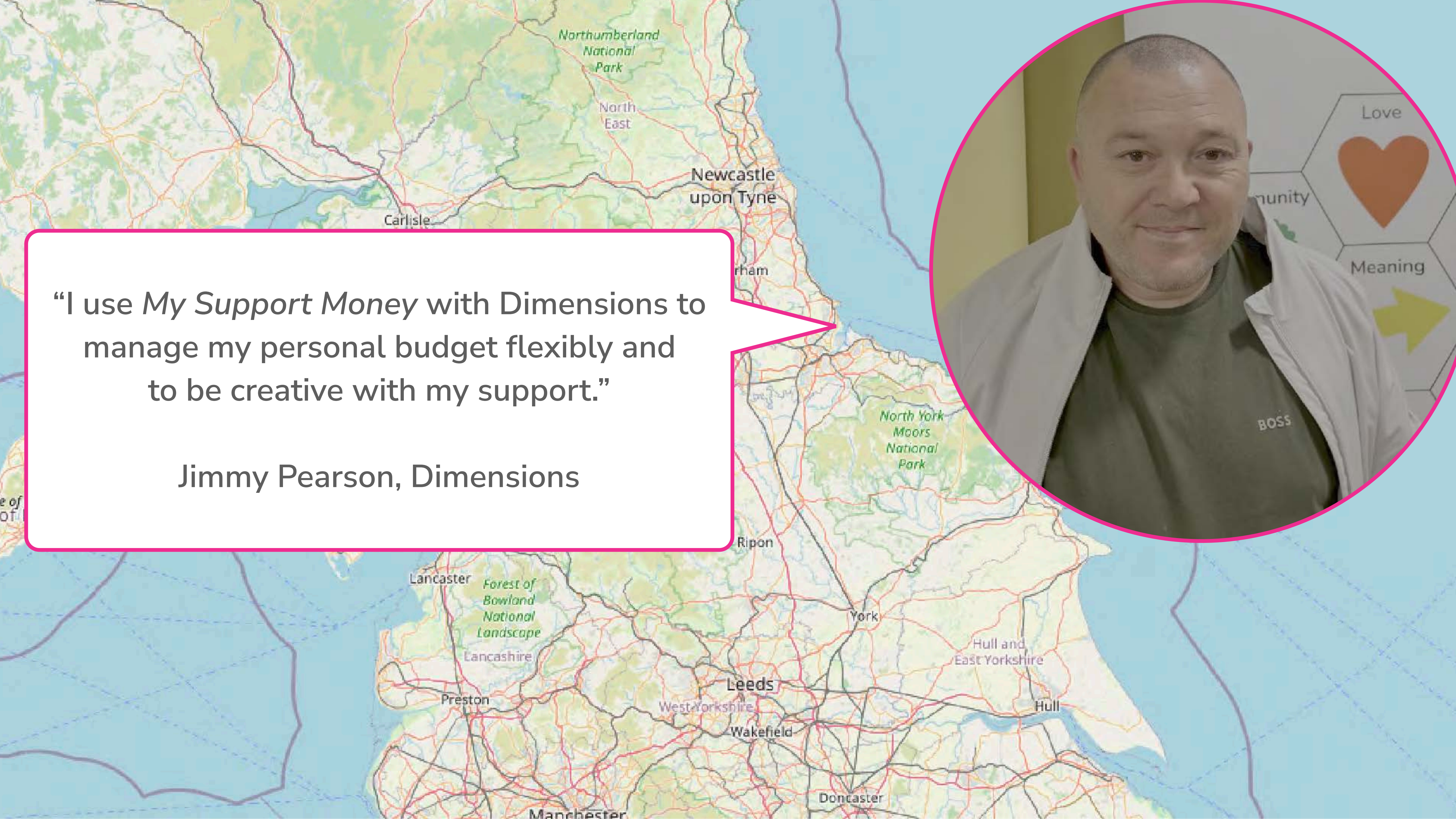




“Inclusion North employs people with lived experience. At least 65% of our staff have a disability. We work to create inclusion through system change.”

Hannah Tough, Inclusion North



A map of Northern England serves as the background for the entire image. It shows major cities like Newcastle upon Tyne, Carlisle, Ripon, York, Leeds, Wakefield, Doncaster, Hull, and Manchester. It also highlights natural areas such as Northumberland National Park, North York Moors National Park, and the Forest of Bowland National Landscape. The map includes county boundaries and a network of roads.

“I use *My Support Money* with Dimensions to manage my personal budget flexibly and to be creative with my support.”

Jimmy Pearson, Dimensions



“My flexible support system helps me to volunteer. I do lots of work for the Alice House Hospice in Hartlepool.”

Michael Coultas, Dimensions



“I am a Community Nurse for Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Trust. We need to see more practical collaboration between all of us—down at the community level.”

Carl Robinson, Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Trust





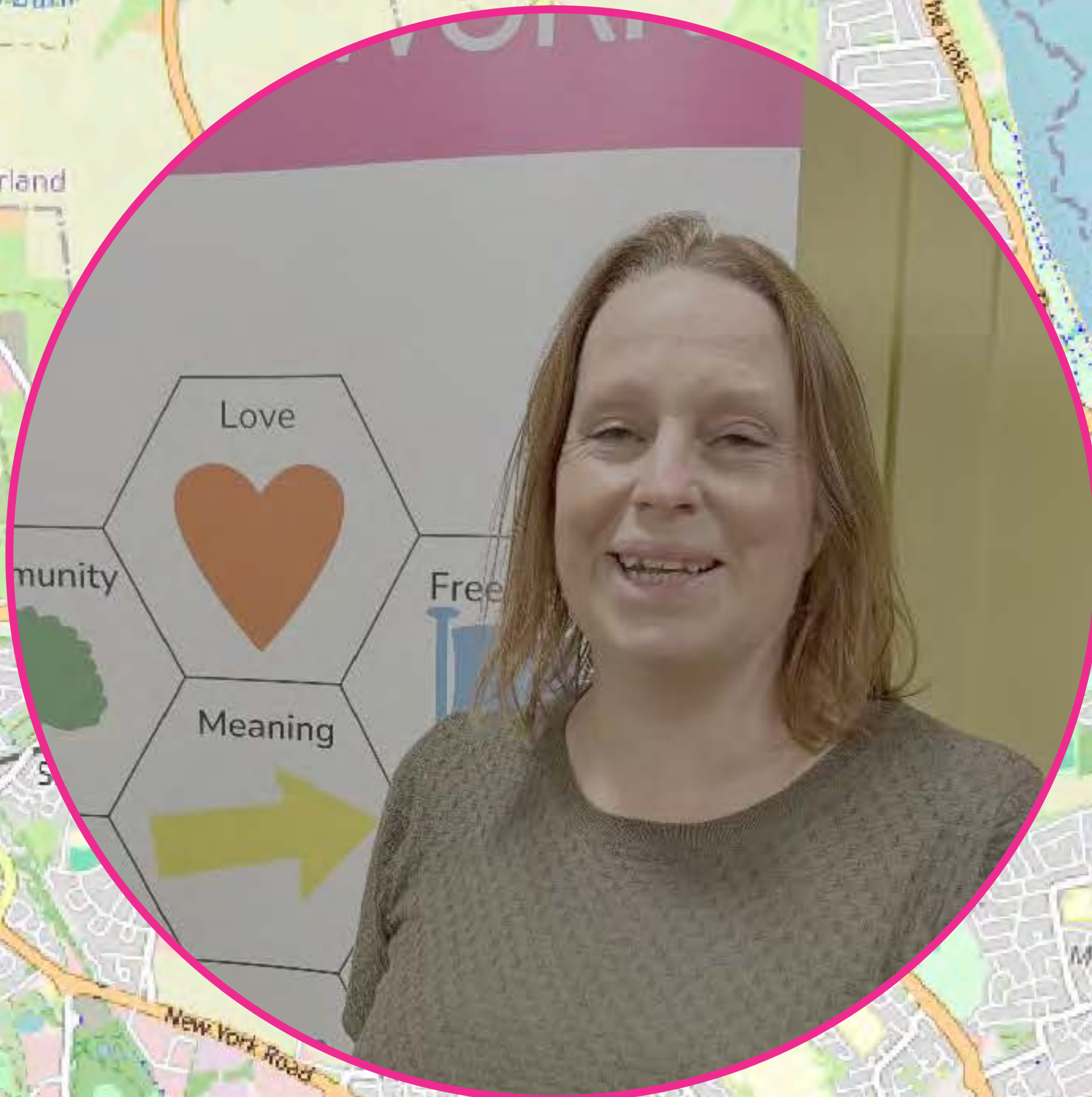
“I’m part of a Citizen Army. We’ve set up a Swap Shop to help people save money and save the planet.”

Caroline Stone, New Prospects



“We run Green Beans Community Market to provide a place for people to connect, share and contribute. We’ve created a giant proggy mat together.”

Annabel Miller, New Prospects

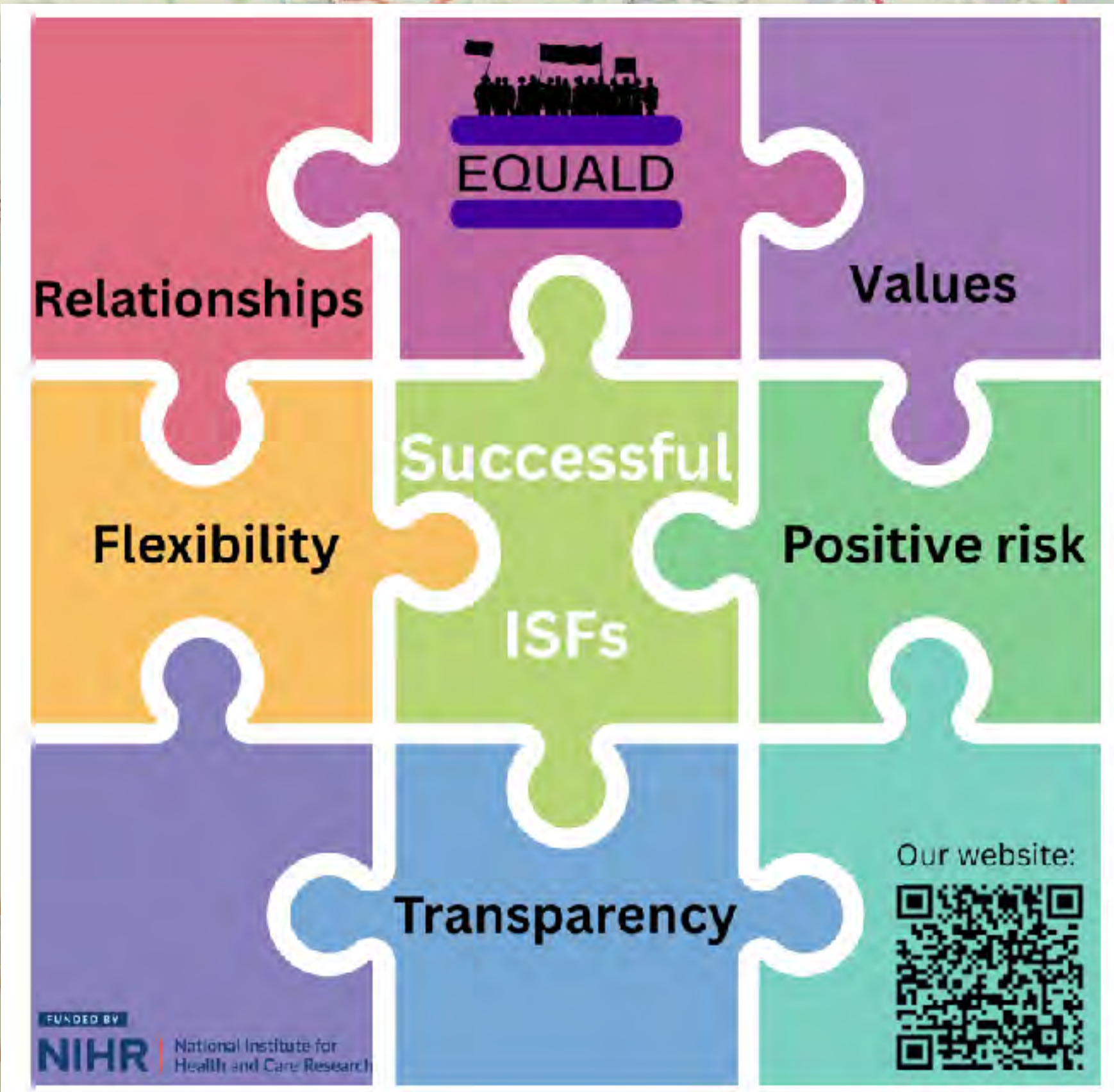




“Small stuff matters. With a little bit of flexible funding for citizenship, organised at a neighbourhood level, amazing things can happen.”

Tim Keilty, New Prospects





“People with learning disabilities and autism should have equal access to high quality personalised social care.”

Liz Croot, Sheffield University



FUNDED BY

NIHR

National Institute for
Health and Care Research

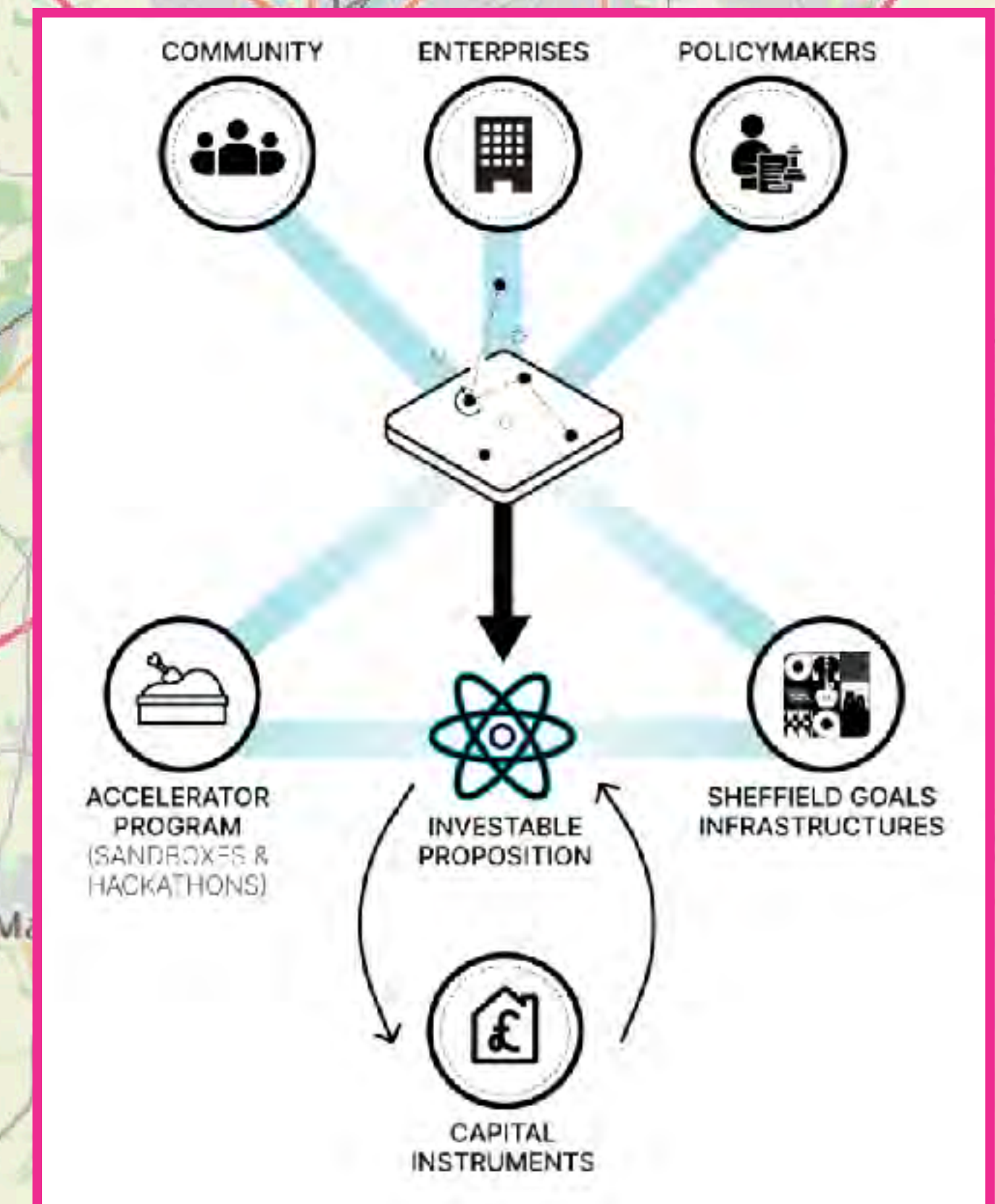
“We work in an equal partnership with adults with learning disabilities and people with autism.”

Alice Dunning, Sheffield University




“We need everyone to feel they are included in democracy. Neighbourhoods need a pot of money, services that work with them and ways of people making decisions together.”

Jason Leman, Citizen Network



Do With





“PFG helps people help people. For the past 15 years we’ve created an army of citizens - often folk who’ve faced the biggest challenges - who help each other and transform their community. Today we’re working with statutory partners to radically reform how care in Doncaster works.”

Kelly Hicks, PFG Doncaster





“We think that one of the most powerful changes we should focus on now is creating **neighbourhoods of care.**”





That means:

1. Supporting everyone to be a citizen
2. Peer support in every neighbourhood
3. Personalised flexible support for all
4. Communities making things happen
5. Neighbourhood democracy

Reactions from civil society leaders...

JRFR
JOSEPH
ROWNTREE
FOUNDATION

“You are showing us the world we want. Our work is about changing the political system so that it becomes easier to do these kind of things.”

“We love the work of PFG and like you JRFR believes change at the neighbourhood level is critical for fighting poverty and achieving social justice.”

@mpass

“Disability Rights UK has become a member of Citizen Network because we see that we share the same values.”



“We want to see people with lived experience like you, not just speaking at events like this, but becoming MPs and Members of the House of Lords.”

**CARE
FULL**

“We love what we learn from Citizen Network. But these changes will only become possible if we change our basic economic model.”

“We’re pleased to work in partnership with Citizen Network on ideas like Basic Income Plus which could transform our current broken system of social security.”

**COMMON SENSE
POLICY GROUP** 

“We’re proud to be part of Citizen Network and excited to take some of these ideas and apply them in radical new ways to help end the evil of homelessness.”

Inclusion
international



“Like you we see that there is much to learn from other countries, many of whom have not made our mistake of stripping away mutual support from neighbourhood life.”

About Citizen Network

Citizen Network began in 2009 as a think tank in Sheffield, in order to:

- Offer an inspiring vision of a better future where we are all equal citizens.
- Share information, grow connections and provide support and encouragement.
- Carry forward the values of inclusion for future generations.

Today we are a global community of over 6,000 individuals and 350 groups.

Join Citizen Network for free,
as an individual or as a group:

www.citizen-network.org



**Citizen Network is just
one of many communities
working to make our world
a better place.**



We'd love to work with you.

Thanks to all our Citizen Network contributors:

Simon Duffy, Jacob Duffy and Jason Leman from the Citizen Network organising team in Sheffield.

Wendy Perez from See Me As Me in Hammersmith, London.

Karen Hooper from Cornwall County Council.

David Burns, Jenna Pulley, Rory Bray Harper and Judith Woodard from Citizen Checker in Cornwall.

Vinesh Kumar from iDirect in Dorset and beyond.

Chris Watson from the global Self-Directed Support Network and SDS Network in England from Wells in Somerset.

Fionn Crombie Angus & Jonathan Angus Citizen Network Global Ambassadors and serial social innovations from Galway in Ireland.

Tim Keilty, Caroline Stone and Annabel Miller from Whitley Bay.

Hannah Tough and Craig Kennady from the North East and Yorkshire & Humber.

Jimmy Pearson and Michael Coultas from Dimension and Carl Robinson from Carl Robinson, Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Trust in Hartlepool.

Liz Croot and Alice Dunning from Sheffield University.

Kelly Hicks and Glyn Butcher from PFG Doncaster.

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Ruth Hannan from Care Full in Manchester.

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Rachel Casey from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Gary Bourlet and Kate Chat from Learning Disability England.

Kimber Bialik from Inclusion International.

And special thanks to our hosts:

The Baroness Hollins

The Baroness Bennett

The Baroness Jones

Mel Coulton (behind the scenes)

David Towell (for design and planning)

CITIZEN NETWORK



Community
We take care of each other

Democracy
We decide things together

Justice
We share what we have

Environment
We look after our world

Inclusion
We welcome everyone

Everyone is a Citizen

"Citizens turn up, share their gifts and work together for the common good."



Work with us to create a world of citizens



www.citizen-network.org