

NEWS RELEASE  
ACEVO (Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations)  
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### ACEVO Launches CEO Group on Employee Engagement

Following on from their recent publication *The way ahead: trade unions and the third sector*, ACEVO has set up a working group of third sector Chief Executives to examine and advise on the most appropriate support and guidance for sector leaders to engage more effectively with employees.

The third sector comprises over 600,000 people, and it is their enthusiasm, skill and commitment as employees or volunteers which has always been the driving force of this vibrant and productive sector.

However an increasingly complex economic and legal environment, alongside greater expectations, means employee relations can be a challenging area for Chief Executives. It is therefore important to create networks of support and greater resources to aid them through potential pitfalls. The group will examine options around engagement with umbrella bodies, unions and how best to mainstream this debate, then report back to ACEVO with their recommendations later this year.

Chair of the working group, Jon Sparkes, Chief Executive of Scope said, "Voluntary sector chief executives need to be completely focused on supporting people at the front line of their organisations, to provide essential services and to drive change. Constantly striving to improve and develop employee engagement is essential if we are to achieve even more as a sector. The work of this group and the excellent report on the role of trade unions in the third sector should contribute to supporting chief executives and their teams in ensuring we achieve excellent employee engagement throughout our organisations."

Stephen Bubb, ACEVO's CEO, commented "The human capital that exists within the sector has enabled us to achieve so much and holds the key to future successes. A crucial aspect to every third sector CEO's role is unlocking this potential through appropriate and professional employee engagement. ACEVO is well placed to offer sector leaders any necessary support in this area, and we look forward to receiving the working group's recommendations."

The working group comprises of:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Jon Sparkes (Chair)	Scope
Susan Bickerton	Norcare
Fiona Blacke	The National Youth Agency
Craig Dearden-Phillips	Speaking Up
Martin Kinsella	P3
Mark Lever	National Autistic Society
Peter Little	Outward Housing
Patrick Nash	Teacher Support Network

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#### NOTES TO EDITORS

##### **ACEVO**

ACEVO (Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations [www.acevo.org.uk](http://www.acevo.org.uk)) is the professional body representing charity and not-for-profit sector chief executives in the UK, with over 2000 members. The broad not-for-profit sector now employs the full-time equivalent of 1.5m staff, with a collective annual turnover of £46bn. ACEVO is committed to improving third sector leadership skills worldwide.