

NEWS RELEASE
ACEVO (Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations)
3 Albion Place, Leeds, LS1 6JL
Contact: Erin McFeely
Tel: (0113) 243 2333, 07950 1787 61
Email: erin.mcfeely@acevo.org.uk

Sir Bert Massie joins ACEVO North Steering Group

Sir Bert Massie CBE, Commissioner for the Compact and third sector champion has been co-opted on to ACEVO's northern steering group.

Sir Bert brings a wealth of experience to the group of elected ACEVO members from Yorkshire and Humber, the North East and North West, who work to guide and promote the work of ACEVO in the northern regions.

Sir Bert Massie has worked in the sector campaigning for disability rights for over 40 years and was a founding member of ACEVO over 20 years ago.

Jenny Berry, Director of ACEVO North, said

'Sir Bert Massie's support for the third sector and involvement with our work will add enormous value.

'Having worked with Sir Bert before, I am really delighted that we can harness his fantastic energy to support third sector leaders in the north of England.

'The support of our ACEVO members, and especially those in the Steering Group has been invaluable to our success in expanding ACEVO's services in the three north regions.'

Tony Collins, CEO of Saint Michael's Hospice and Chair of the ACEVO North Steering Group said,

'The Steering Group is committed to achieving more for third sector leaders in the north of England and I am absolutely delighted that we will benefit from Sir Bert's experience.

'As a founding member of ACEVO, he knows more than most the benefit of a network of peers which can speak collectively and share challenges.'

Speaking before his first meeting of the group in Manchester, **Sir Bert Massie** added,

‘It is great to have the opportunity to contribute again to the work of ACEVO.

‘The ACEVO North Steering Group is a fantastic forum for connecting with third sector leaders in the north of England.

‘As Commissioner for the Compact, I believe passionately in effective partnership working between the public and the third sector, and the Commission plays an important role in overseeing and promoting use of the Compact. This long-standing agreement is a way for public and third sector bodies to produce, by working in partnership, better services, facilities and opportunities than could be produced by the public sector or the third sector alone.’

-ENDS-

Notes to editors

ACEVO

ACEVO (Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations 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.

ACEVO North Steering Group

The ACEVO North Steering Group was established in April 2008, following the election of 12 ACEVO members in the three north regions. The ACEVO North Steering Group has no formal governance function within ACEVO, it exists to support and promote the work of ACEVO’s services and presence in the north which is led by Jenny Berry, Director of ACEVO in the North.

Sir Bert Massie

Sir Bert Massie CBE, Commission for the Compact, has been a disability rights campaigner for almost 40 years. He has wide experience of voluntary organisations and of working with government and governmental agencies.

He was Chief Executive of RADAR, the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation.

Sir Bert has served on a number of government advisory committees concerned with Disability.

At present, he is a Governor of Motability, the leading car scheme for disabled people, and a Trustee of Habinteg Housing Association. He is Vice President or Patron of a number of disability charities.

Sir Bert has been disabled since he was three months old. He was created a Knight in 2007 in recognition of his services to disabled people. He has Honorary Doctorates from the Universities of Bristol and Staffordshire and is an Honorary Fellow of Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) from where he graduated in 1977 with a Social Studies degree. He is currently a Governor of LJMU. Sir Bert was born in Liverpool in 1949 and, after living in London for almost 30 years, now lives in the Aigburth area of Liverpool.