

NEWS RELEASE
ACEVO (Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations)
1 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1NU

Contact: Carina McKeown
Tel: 0845 130 4641, 07825 894716 (Out of hours)
Email: carina.mckeown@acevo.org.uk

Best third sector budget for a long time

Responding to today's budget announcement, ACEVO's Chief Executive Stephen Bubb says:

"This is the best third sector budget for a long time. The Government now needs to work with us on implementation to make the most of the opportunities and to minimise the potential damage of forthcoming efficiency savings.

We were surprised and disappointed not to see support for charities with funds in Icelandic banks. Many of them, like other third sector organisations dealing with increased demand for their services and with their resources under threat, will now be looking to the highly welcome new £20 million Hardship Loan Fund for charities dealing with increased demand for their services.

We are delighted that an ACEVO report to James Purnell, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has inspired a job creation scheme, extra training, and more money for existing welfare-to-work programmes - with the third sector expected to play a major role, particularly through the job creation scheme, whose design we will continue to discuss with DWP over the coming weeks.

James Purnell says, "Without the work of ACEVO this announcement would not have been possible. In particular, the paper Stephen Bubb prepared demonstrated that the voluntary sector has the ideas to create employment for people out of work. This budget provides the funding that will enable the voluntary sector to develop local, useful jobs for the young unemployed."

Bubb goes on to say, "We are delighted to see that our calls for a 'Green New Deal' are also reflected in the new money for energy efficiency schemes. Equally welcome are the commitment to draw up substantive proposals for a Social Investment Bank, proposed by an ACEVO taskforce in February this year, and the commitment to exploring reform of Gift Aid further.

Now it is action time: we will need to work with Government on the jobs and energy packages, the Social Investment Bank and Gift Aid, and on ensuring that efficiency savings are just that - and not cuts to vital third sector services."

-ENDS-

Editors notes:

- ACEVO is the membership body for third sector leaders, set up over twenty years ago to connect, develop and represent its members. With over 2,000 members, ACEVO is committed to improving third sector leadership skills worldwide. Visit www.acevo.org.uk
- The broad not-for-profit sector now employs the full-time equivalent of 1.5m staff, with a collective annual turnover of £46bn.