

NEWS RELEASE  
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For immediate release

**Leading the debate on the future of capacity building**

October 16, 2009: Stephen Bubb delivered a speech last night to the chief executives of the sector's top one hundred charities, in which he called on the third sector to lead the debate on the future of capacity building.

"Government has invested heavily over the last ten years in building the sector's capacity" said Bubb "But we cannot expect to see the same kind of investment in the next decade".

As a sector we must lead the debate, and justify investment where it is most needed".

Stephen put forward three principles which he said should underpin the debate about the support the third sector needs for capacity building in the future:

- We must be clear about the difference between capacity building and voice
- Capacity building should be more targeted, and demand led to make better use of tighter resources
- All third sector organisations must get better at demonstrating the difference which capacity building makes to the effectiveness of the sector, and promoting that to those whose continued investment is needed

Stephen suggested that the key areas the third sector should focus on to move capacity building forwards are social investment and a potential system of "individual budgets" for capacity building. The system he proposed would allow organisations to determine the best and most appropriate form of support for their needs.

Speaking on these areas Stephen said, "Social investment is the cornerstone of the future of capacity building; and pushing ahead quickly with the creation of the social investment bank is crucial. Loans which allow the sector to grow but where resources are recycled again and again are clearly an efficient use of resources. But importantly they give organisations much more control over their development rather than just being the passive recipients of grants."

It would also allow for third sector organisations to be much more empowered to receive the kind of support which they themselves feel they need. Organisations could

receive an “individual budget” from statutory agencies with which to go to a diverse market place of providers to find the support they most need.”

To learn more about ACEVO and Stephen Bubb’s proposals on the future of capacity building please see Stephen’s speech.

ACEVO’s conference on regional representation is being held in York on October 15<sup>th</sup> and will be a platform to continue this debate with leaders from local authorities and many support organisations.

#### 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.