

Briefing Sheet 4 New Third Sector Action plan

The government has announced the launch of 'Real Help for Communities: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises' - an action plan outlining £42.5 million support for the third sector in the difficult economic climate.

Real Help for Communities: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises

How the funding in the plan breaks down

Meeting Demand for Services and Tackling Unemployment

* Up to £10 million investment in a volunteer brokerage scheme for unemployed people. This will create over 40,000 opportunities for people to learn new skills and give back to communities through volunteering. – From April 2009

* A £15.5 million Community Resilience Fund that will provide grant funding to small and medium providers in the local areas that are at most risk of deprivation – Available from April 2009

Strengthening the Sector now and in the future

* A £16.5 million modernisation fund to support viable third sector organisations to access specialist services in order to restructure and become more resilient and efficient in the recession. Funding for organisations available from summer 2009

* £0.5 million investment in the School for Social Entrepreneurs to expand its action-learning programme to support social entrepreneurs.

Other support in Real Help for Communities

Real Help for Communities: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises contains a range of other actions that will both enable the third sector to deliver real help now in more effective and efficient ways and support the sector to emerge from the recession stronger and more sustainable. You can download a key milestones chart of all the various actions announced below:

Real Help for Communities: Key milestones

Background

Underpinning the Government's development of Real Help for Communities: Volunteers, Charities & Social Enterprises, the Office of the Third Sector formulated a number of guiding principles. These principles emerged from the NCVO summit on the economic downturn, co-chaired by the Minister for the Third Sector, Kevin Brennan, in November 2008. They aim to guarantee that the measures implemented by Government are targeted at the right parts of the sector and ensure continued and strengthened delivery to deprived communities.

The Principles:

- * Helps achieve economic growth, equality and social mobility
- * Delivers real help now and in the future for individuals, families and communities
- * Ensures as many resources as possible are directed into frontline services
- * Encourages third sector organisations to work together to provide help now and in the future
- * Provides a rapid response to current and emerging needs