

## Briefing to the Sector on the Giving White Paper

The Government published the Giving White Paper<sup>1</sup> on Monday 23 May as the culmination of a wide consultation following the Giving Green paper originally published in December 2010. The White paper outlines the Government's strategy for giving and the Government's proposals to increase the rates of giving and the number of people that give.

It is a collection of various ideas and a drawing together of the extensive number of consultation responses that the Cabinet Office received following the Green Paper. The White Paper outlines early details of a range of specific initiatives, some new investments and announces a Giving Summit to be held in autumn 2011.

The Government believes that increasing participation (in terms of financial giving and the gift of time through voluntary and social action) is possible and identifies the following as indicative of the potential to do more:

- Giving is concentrated: a minority give at significantly above average rates;
- Donors in lower income brackets give proportionately more of their income, suggesting potential for higher giving levels amongst higher earners;
- Businesses could in many cases do more and learn from the exemplary community work that many businesses already do;
- There is a current need to match skills and time with organisations who need skilled, pro-bono support.

### Specific proposals and investments

The Government has announced a number of specific proposals and investments, including some significant and potentially promising new spending.

### Making it easier to give Helping giving fit into everyday life

- Encouraging new ways to give money – through ATM giving and 'Round Pound' schemes to give small amounts when paying by card; and support for pilots of flexible, self managed volunteering platforms.

### Better information

- Investment in the new Philanthropy UK website to offer advice for current and would-be philanthropists; further investment in the Do-it volunteering database which is used by all Volunteer Centres in Surrey, and opening up Do-it data so it can be accessed and shared more widely.
- Challenge Prize to reward new ways to access opportunities to give time through mobile phones.
- Community Organisers and Business Connectors to galvanise social action in communities.

### Removing barriers to giving

- Reducing Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks and the Vetting and Barring Scheme to common-sense levels, and working with Lord Hodgson's review of red tape to reduce bureaucracy. (Surrey CA will publicise changes as/when they are announced)
- Increasing volunteer expense allowances, announced in the Budget, i.e. 45p per mile up to 10,000 miles, 25p thereafter.

## Make it more compelling to give

### New Tax incentives

- Reducing inheritance tax to 36% for those leaving 10% or more of their estate to charity; consultation on tax reductions for gifts of pre-eminent works of art to the nation.

### New models of reciprocity

- Using the Social Action Fund to support new models that incentivise people to give time, such as 'complementary currencies' that give people credit for volunteering; £400,00 from government and the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) to trial 'Spice' time credits in England. However, this is aimed at priority areas so Surrey may miss out again.

### Match Funding

- An £80 million investment through Community First matched neighbourhood funds to encourage more social action in deprived neighbourhoods; match fund for community campaigns like the Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund.

### New Social norms

- Government leading by example, with Ministers volunteering for a One Day Challenge to give a day a year to a good cause; encouraging more HMG civil servants to give time, turning the civil service into a 'Civic Service'.
- Celebrating giving by creating a new philanthropy committee to review candidates for honours; supporting a social norm around payroll giving with a major campaign.

- Core Funding and match funding for schools-based programmes to build a culture of giving in the young, national Citizen Service.

## Better Support for those providing and managing opportunities to give.

- Investing £30 million in local infrastructure to support civil society organisations
- Changes to Gift Aid – enabling online filing to reduce paperwork, allowing charities to thank major donors more generously, and enabling a Gift Aid-style payment on small cash donations.
- Opening up government's physical estate to charities, providing space on government websites for online donation platforms; exploring opportunities to share government data on giving more effectively.
- Use the Social Action Fund to support proposals for training voluntary volunteer managers including ex-civil servants.

Overall, this is positive news for the sector. More can always be done, especially as we face real cuts. Surrey CA will keep you informed as details come out. Sign up for e-news now by emailing [anneb@surreyca.org.uk](mailto:anneb@surreyca.org.uk)

1

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/giving-white-paper.pdf>