

17 March 2011

Dear

As I am sure you will appreciate, strong partnerships between local authorities and their voluntary and community sector (VCS) is fundamental to improving services for local people, achieving the best outcomes for communities, and ensuring that the voices of the most vulnerable are heard. However, the current financial climate is putting this relationship under considerable strain.

We are aware that some councils have worked closely with their local VCS to identify ways of mitigating the impact of cuts on local people. For example they have agreed:

- not to pass on disproportionate cuts to local and voluntary groups;
- to talk to voluntary and community groups at a very early stage about how services need to change; and
- to give at least three months notice about the need to end or alter a grant or other support

Although decisions may be different according to the unique factors of each local area, there are, as Secretary of State Eric Pickles stated, 'reasonable expectations' that voluntary sector organisations should be able to rely on wherever they are and whatever decisions are made.

NCVO, ACEVO, and NAVCA are keen to build a sound and comprehensive understanding of how local authorities and the voluntary sector can work best together in these difficult times. The thoughts, insight, and experience from you and your councillors will make a valuable contribution to this understanding.

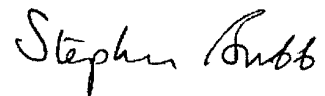
In particular, we would like to hear what action your council is taking to ensure that local organisations are able to rely on these reasonable expectations. Examples of positive action that you are taking, or of barriers or obstacles that stand in the way of you being able to work towards meeting these expectations would be welcome.

Please direct any comments through to Daniel.fluskey@ncvo-vol.org.uk

Yours sincerely



Sir Stuart Etherington
Chief Executive, National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Handwritten signature of Stephen Bubb in black ink.

Sir Stephen Bubb
Chief Executive, Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations

Handwritten signature of Kevin Curley in black ink.

Kevin Curley
Chief Executive, National Association of Voluntary and Community Action