

For immediate release

Consultation on the Code of Good Governance now open

19 August 2009: The steering group of the voluntary and community sector's Code of Good Governance is opening a three-month consultation on the Code's key principles today.

The consultation has been launched following the Code's steering group's decision to make the principles more accessible and applicable to all organisations in the sector. The aim is for the Code of Good Governance to remain voluntary but to have more meaning and to become an effective standard in the sector.

Lindsay Driscoll, Chair of the Steering Group, said:

“This is a challenging time for the sector and for governance generally, with so many questions about the failures of banks. It is vital that charities can demonstrate that they are well governed in practice, with arrangements in proportion to their needs; and that the sector has a recognised, effective and proportionate code.

“Initial feedback from charities on these proposals has been extremely positive.”

Good Governance: a Code for the Voluntary and Community Sector was published in 2005, and a review conducted by nfp Synergy last year found that 42% of organisations surveyed had used the Code, and another 29% were aware of it. One of the key conclusions the steering group drew from the report was that whilst the principles of the Code were correct, they needed to be easier to understand and more applicable to a wider range of organisations, no matter what their size.

The steering group are calling on all individuals and organisations in the third sector to have their say on the “refashioned principles”. To be part of the consultation please visit:

www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=WwPJWePWtKhvCOGFQ_2fjUwg_3d_3d or visit the links on the steering group’s websites to share your views and comments.

-ENDS-

For media enquiries please contact Carina McKeown at ACEVO on 0845 130 4641, 07825 894716 (Out of hours) or email carina.mckeown@acevo.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

1. The partners in the Governance Code Steering Group are the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO), Charity Trustee Networks and the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA). As part of its support for the Code, the Charity Commission attends steering group meetings in an advisory capacity. Lindsay Driscoll was appointed as the Steering Group’s first independent Chair in March of this year.
2. The Code was originally written by the organisations represented on the steering group. It was published and promoted by the Governance Hub (a partnership of organisations working to improve governance of charities and other voluntary and community organisations as part of Change Up) until the Hub’s closure in 2008.
3. The Governance Hub commissioned a review of the Code by nfpSynergy. For details of their report *Review and Development of the Code of Good Governance* see http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/uploadedFiles/NCVO/Publications/Publications_Catalogue/Trustee_and_Governance/Review%20of%20Code%20of%20Good%20Governance.pdf

