



COMMISSIONING & INVESTMENT BRIEFING:

The Labour Party's Vision for a 'Society of Service'

In readiness for the next General Election, the Labour Party has announced its intention to work in partnership with the VCSE sector, creating a 'Society of Service'. This short briefing outlines broad commitments made, and emerging commentary from the VCSE Sector on this announcement.

The Labour Party has announced their vision for a 'society of service'. This includes:

- Recognition of **civil society as one of the three key engines** for '10 years of renewal' (alongside the public and private sectors).
- A pledge to **reset the relationship between government and charities** by creating a **partnership** between government and civil society.
- An intention to implement an **action plan** on how a future Labour government would work with civil society (details yet to be announced).
- An intention to **work with the sector on each of its five missions** (building, energy, the NHS, community policing and increasing opportunities).
- Recognition of the **vital role of Charities in lobbying for improvement**.
- Mention of **devolving power to communities** and giving people "the responsibility they deserve and the support that they need".
- A desire to **encourage**, rather than stifle **social entrepreneurship**.
- **Recognition of vital role of VCSE sector currently** - examples given of getting people back into work, volunteering, and as major employers in their own right.

VCSE Sector commentary so far:

- The 'Society of Service' vision marks the first time a political leader in the UK has set out a strategic vision for how the sector can serve as a partner to government since David Cameron's 'Big Society' concept in 2010. However, details of the plans remain to be seen.
- A welcome commitment, given the lack of reference to civil society in the 5 key missions to date, but concern about how far the intentions will be adopted within the delivery plans.
- Welcoming of the intention to work in partnership, across all 5 missions, but noting that the VCSE sector must be compensated fairly for their work.

