

**POLICY CHALLENGES
FOR CHARITIES**
18 FEBRUARY 2020



NEW GOVERNMENT

A MAJORITY CHANGES THINGS

First large majority for any party since 2005

Puts the government in a much stronger position:
Brexit policy will be on the government's terms

Partly won by appealing to different sorts of voters from before: will that affect policy?

ECONOMIC AND FISCAL ENVIRONMENT

IT'S STILL NOT EASY

Language on tax and spend has shifted:

- we don't know how far that will go
- more money for infrastructure – less clear how much more for services

Still lots of pressure on charities:

- service delivery
- local government funding
- EU funding
- Economic outlook

SAFEGUARDING

STILL A HIGH-PROFILE ISSUE (RIGHTLY)

Charity Commission and charities are doing more:

- capacity-building
- support for training
- digital portal

Serious incident reporting:

- more incidents being reported
- new guidance on incidents reporting involving charity partners

CHARITY REGULATION

A SHIFT OF EMPHASIS

Charity Commission is taking a wider view of its role:

- going beyond charities' legal duties
- going beyond its compliance role

Is the Commission best-placed for this?

- resource pressure on the Commission
- challenges in delivering core activities
- role of sector bodies

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

BEING CHALLENGED TO RAISE OUR GAME

Discussions have been increasingly widespread across the sector:

- we still have a great deal to do in this area

Sector bodies are talking about this more:

- being challenged by research and online campaigns

We're planning to do more on this:

- we know we have work to do as well

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

A SKILLS GAP CHARITIES WANT TO FILL

Digital continuing to grow in importance

Charities often feel lacking in this area

- NCVO research: over a third of voluntary sector employers believed their staff were missing digital skill
- Lloyds Bank Charity Digital Index: 48% of charities don't have five 'basic digital skills'.

Work going on to make more help available.

CLIMATE CRISIS

NOT JUST SOMEONE ELSE'S JOB

Growing concern about the climate crisis:

- public opinion overall
- especially for younger people
- protests and public engagement

Solutions to challenges involving civil society:

- local projects
- support from trusts and foundations

Challenge to the sector too:

- we need to be more sustainable ourselves

CONTEXT



POLICY AND IMPACT – THE AMPLIFYING EFFECT



POLICY AND IMPACT – THE VIRTUOUS CIRCLE

This creates the conditions in which we can 'get heard' and the environment we deliver services into

We enable the voices of the people that we work with and for

We deliver innovative solutions to meet their needs

We share our learning and influence policy and practice to deliver wider impact

WHAT SHOULD KEEP THE TREASURER UP AT NIGHT?

New government, new rules – are we really influential?

Fiscal environment – 12 years and counting

Breadth and importance of regulatory compliance

New reputational risks – ‘how we do’ not just ‘what we do’

NCVO champions the voluntary sector and volunteer movement to create a better society.

We connect, represent and support over 13,000 voluntary sector member organisations, from the smallest community groups to the largest charities.

This helps our members and their millions of volunteers make the biggest difference to the causes they believe in.

- Search for NCVO membership
- Visit www.ncvo.org.uk/join
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