

Jane Kennedy, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said: "The publication of the Third Sector review follows the largest consultation government has undertaken with the sector. Their input has informed a new framework for partnership which recognises the role of charities and the voluntary sector in delivering and designing public services and also in campaigning for change, promoting social enterprise and building communities."

"Today's report announces new measures that we hope will strengthen such organisations as they work to improve the lives of individuals and our communities."

The review was also welcomed by other key Third Sector stakeholders – Commissioner for the Compact, John Stoker said: "I welcome the final report of the Third Sector review. It shows that the Government fully recognise the value of real partnership working between the public sector and the Third Sector. I am delighted in particular to see the Government restating its full commitment to the principles of the Compact."

The Compact is the partnership between government and the voluntary and community sector to improve their relationship for mutual advantage and community gain.

The final report of the Third Sector review sets out a series of measures to build on the Government's partnership with the Third Sector – and feed into the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Round – under five key headings:

Enabling voice and campaigning

A new focus on enabling the Third Sector's role in campaigning and providing a voice for many vulnerable groups, including investment in innovative consultation approaches, work to protect the right of organisations to campaign and mechanisms to ensure Ministers hear the views of Third Sector organisations on policy.

Strengthening communities

A new £50 million local endowment match fund enabling local independent foundations to develop community endowments to provide sustainability in future grant making, building on the £80 million small grants programme for community action and voice announced in the 2007 Budget.



CASE STUDY

Sunderland Home Care Associates (SHCA)



SHCA is a social enterprise set up in 1994 to take advantage of opportunities from the deregulation of the delivery of local authority domiciliary care. Started with just 20 employees, SHCA now employs 175 people (85% of whom are women) and has an annual turnover of £1.75 million.

SHCA is a major provider of personal care and domestic services on behalf of Sunderland City Council. Its particular focus is on enabling older and disabled people to stay in their homes for longer by offering them specially tailored care services. Its flexible working policies allow employees to balance work and family life, resulting in an exceptionally low staff turnover of just 3.5% annually.

Margaret Elliot, SHCA's founder said: "I have worked in this field for 30 years and have worked hard at what I truly believe in. I see, on a daily basis, how this way of working literally changes people's lives. A wise and humane man once said: 'What we think or what we believe is, in the end, of little consequence. The only thing of consequence is what we do.'"

SHCA's success has led to the setting up of Care and Share Associates to replicate the business model which has so far been copied in North Tyneside, Newcastle and Manchester.

www.casaltd.com

At least £10 million of new investment in community anchor organisations and community asset and enterprise development, building on the £30 million Community Assets Fund announced in the 2006 Pre-Budget Report. That's around £117 million of new resources for youth volunteering.

Transforming public services

Building capacity of Third Sector organisations to improve public services through the Futurebuilders Fund, training for public sector Commissioners and work to build the evidence on opportunities for the Third Sector.

Encouraging social enterprise

Additional investment to raise awareness of the social enterprise business model, and support for government departments to investigate areas for social enterprise delivery – including getting social enterprise into the Key Stage 3 and 4 curriculum framework from 2008.

Supporting a thriving, healthy Third Sector

- better mechanisms to drive best practice in funding the Third Sector, including in the expectation that when government departments and their agencies receive their 2008–11 budgets, they will pass on that three year funding to Third Sector organisations
- a new programme to build the Third Sector evidence base, including £5 million on a new national research centre
- a new Third Sector skills strategy
- over £80 million of new investment for Third Sector infrastructure development through Capacitybuilders, with new programmes on voice and campaigning, social enterprise and a focus on reaching out to the smallest community groups
- continued focus on the Compact as a means to build the relationship between the Third Sector and all levels of government

www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk

www.capacitybuilders.org.uk

www.thecompact.org.uk

CASE STUDY

Project Cosmic



Project Cosmic is a rural social enterprise providing a range of ICT services in Ottery St Mary in Devon.

Set up in 1996, its activities include a focus on overcoming the twin barriers faced by rural communities – distance and isolation – which can lead to exclusion and disadvantage.

The project provides IT training to local people and supplies other community organisations and businesses with their technology needs, such as websites and IT training.

Chief Executive Julie Harris says: "Being a social enterprise is like gold in the bank in credibility and marketing terms. The public trusts you and it has tremendous power to attract new businesses particularly the growing number of businesses with a social conscience. It is a priceless, unique selling point."

www.cosmic.org.uk

