

Westminster Briefing
Third Sector Conference 2008
**A Thriving and Independent Third Sector:
New Opportunities and New Challenges**

Wednesday 29th October 2008, Westminster
Organised by The House Magazine

PROGRAMME:

- 09:00** *Registration & Morning Refreshments*
- 10:00** **Chair's Introduction**
- 10:15** **The Government View:
Supporting Conditions for a Thriving Third Sector**
- Legacy of the Third Sector Review - Developing infrastructure and financing, building on Compact, working in partnership
- 10:45** **Building Capabilities: Access to Funding, Finance and Support**
- Investigating available funding streams – Futurebuilders, Big Lottery fund
 - Three year funding, improving bidding capacity and ensuring a place for smaller organisations in accessing contracts
 - Capacitybuilders and the quality and availability of support services
 - Improving relationships with funders
 - The role of social investors
- 11:45** *Morning Coffee*
- 12:00** **The Third Sector and Local Government:
Building Partnerships and Improving Engagement**
- Third sector roles in Local Area Agreements and Local strategic Partnerships
 - Working together to build community cohesion and empowerment
 - Promoting and reinforcing the Compact
 - Bidding for and winning public service contracts
 - Ensuring local government procurement processes are accessible to the third sector
- 13:00** *Networking Lunch*



Interactive Sessions: Delegates will have the choice of attending two of the following sessions

**14:00 The Third Sector Locally:
Community Action and Campaigning**

- Building the capacity of community organisations- access to grass roots grants
- The Community Empowerment Bill
- Ensuring representation at a national level
- Retaining key campaigning characteristics and investing in campaigners training
- Third Sector organisations role as 'community anchors' and representatives – giving a voice to marginalised groups
- Opportunities presented by community assets & asset transfer

OR

**14:00 Third Sector Fundraising:
Innovation and Ensuring Best Practice**

- Innovative approaches to fundraising
- Implications of OTS Guidance on Professional Fundraising
- Private sector partnerships
- Ensuring transparency of funding streams and investments
- Maintaining reputable funding methods and self regulation – The Fundraising Standards Board
- Maintaining good relations with donors

15:00 *Afternoon Tea Break*

15:15 Volunteering: Increasing Profile and Opportunities

- The new 'V' initiative to champion and increase youth volunteering and the Goldstar programme
- Creating a culture of volunteering and raising its profile
- Identifying and tackling barriers to volunteering
- Promoting volunteering amongst those at risk of social exclusion
- Developing high quality volunteer training

OR

15:15 Social Enterprise: A Vital Role in Public Services

- Preparing for a key role in neighbourhood renewal - The proposed DCLG social enterprise unit
- Building skills and capacity to win public service contracts – investigating the information and support available
- Raising awareness of social enterprise and evidence of its benefits
- Meeting the challenges of a financial and social bottom line
- Spreading expertise and knowledge within the sector

16:30 *Conference Close*

****Please note the programme and speakers are subject to change without notice****