



HELPING HOMELESS AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE SINCE 1860

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Will the government's Giving White Paper secure a brighter future for charities?

The government this week set out its aim to create a culture of giving in this country 'from primary school children to pensioners'. A leading London homelessness charity, Providence Row, supports this culture of giving but questions whether this aim will lead to more charitable donations.

Proposals in the white paper include making donating easier, for example via ATMs, and inheritance tax reduction for those leaving more than 10% of their estate to charity. However the majority of the paper focuses on giving time rather than money - by making volunteering fit in with people's lifestyles.

Acting chief executive of Providence Row, Lisa Harrison, said 'We welcome the government's aim to create a culture of giving however we are concerned about how sustainable some of these measures are. Providence Row is staffed 2:1 by volunteers, without whom we could not provide our services. However charities desperately need income to ensure overheads are met and volunteers receive the training they need to deal with very vulnerable clients.'

The paper deals very specifically with how volunteering can be made more flexible for businesses but does not address direct donations. However for charities, volunteering coupled with large donations yields the best results.

One such example of this in action is Providence Row's recently launched employment workshop sponsored by Veni Partners LLP. The workshop provides individual help for homeless and recently housed people as well as ongoing support to ensure people not only find jobs, but stay in them. Veni Partners staff will volunteer at the scheme, helping with interview techniques as well as training staff to deliver CV writing advice. £34,000 over two years from the partnership will fund this joint venture.

Julia Gallop, chief operating officer at Veni Partners said, 'The employment workshop is a great example of how rewarding a long term relationship can be, especially when it really meets the needs of vulnerable people. It's great to see the people that Providence Row works with getting the support they need to leave homelessness behind – all because of our contribution.'

Whilst not everyone can provide this large a donation, it is ongoing, regular giving that ensures donors and volunteers not only get to see the difference they are making but also that charities can continue to provide their services, and of course plan ahead.

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Acting Chief Executive, Lisa Harrison, is available for comment and further information. Please contact her using the details below.

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Notes to editors

- The full white paper can be found here
<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/giving-white-paper.pdf>
- Providence Row tackles the root causes of homelessness to help people get off, and stay off, the streets. Working with people to build skills and confidence is the key to our success as well as the support we provide for mental health and addiction issues. For more information go to www.providencerow.org.uk