

Media release
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The Big Squeeze 2010

LVSC re-launches 'Big Squeeze' survey to map recession impact on the capital's voluntary and charitable organisations

London Voluntary Service Council (LVSC) has launched the second 'Big Squeeze' survey - London's biggest study of the impact of the recession on the capital's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and the Londoners they serve.

In 2009 the first survey found that:

- The recession was directly affecting the communities served by London's Voluntary and Community organisations;
- Increased demand for charitable services was significant and quantifiable;
- Many charities were concerned about their ability to continue to meet these needs, but were already taking positive action to survive the downturn; and
- There was clear psychological fallout of the recession - in terms of mental health and well-being - which London's charities and voluntary organisations were already beginning to manage.

Peter Lewis, Chief Executive of LVSC, said:

'Whilst the latest indications show that the UK economy is no longer in recession the social challenges are expected to persist for years to come. London's charities and voluntary organisations play a vital role in mitigating the effects of the recession and its aftermath on the capital's poorest and most vulnerable communities. The 2010 Big Squeeze survey will show us how they are responding to the challenges and what they need in order to continue to deliver for Londoners.'

The 2010 Big Squeeze survey will map trends and also gather key information about the scope and impact of widely-anticipated cuts in public spending. LVSC is seeking responses from across the sector in the capital to ensure it gathers the fullest picture.

London's Voluntary and Community Sector comprises:

- Nearly 30,000 registered charities, and tens of thousands more unregistered community groups and around 5000 social enterprises;
- 7% of London's workforce;
- Around 2.5 million active volunteers each year;
- An economic turnover contributing around £18bn annually to London's economy.

To take part in the 2010 survey or to view electronic copies of reports produced to date visit www.lvsc.org.uk/bigsqueeze. The survey closes at the end of February 2010 and results will be released in March 2010.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

1. About the Big Squeeze campaign

The Big Squeeze is a research-led campaign that started in early 2009. A web-based and postal survey of VCS groups ran between January and April 2009, with an interim report published in February 2009 and full phase 1 report, including case study evidence and wider analysis, in July 2009. To take part in the 2010 survey or to view electronic copies of reports produced to date please visit www.lvsc.org.uk/bigsqueeze. The survey closes at the end of February 2010.

2. Media Enquiries

Area	Name	Organisation	Contact points
For general media enquiries about the campaign as a whole please call:			
Big Squeeze Campaign	Gethyn Williams Policy and Networks Manager	London Voluntary Service Council (LVSC)	0203 349 8931 / 07971 530544 Gethyn@lvsc.org.uk
	Peter Lewis Chief Executive		0203 349 8901 / 07957 484276 peter@lvsc.org.uk

3. About London Voluntary Service Council

LVSC brings London voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations together to learn and share best practice and to create a co-ordinated voice to influence policy makers. We provide policy briefings, up-to-date information on management and funding, advice and support for voluntary and community groups, topical e-bulletins and learning opportunities for those working in the sector.

Working regionally, LVSC is one of nine members of Regional Voices – the network of champions for the engagement of the VCS in regional policy and strategy. For further information please visit www.regionalvoices.net.

For more information on LVSC and it's services please visit our website at www.lvsc.org.uk.