

## Consultation Response: Civil Society Strategy

May 2018

### What is it?

The Office for Civil Society (OCS) is one of the teams at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), led by the Minister for Sport and Civil Society, Tracey Crouch. In November 2017, the department announced a public consultation to provide an opportunity to look at ways to improve the way that government and public bodies interact with the charity sector. The outcome is due to be published in a few months when the submissions have been collated. OCS will outline plans for how government can work with, and for, civil society to tackle challenges and unlock opportunities.

### Who contributed?

Civil society is made up of well-known large charities, social enterprises and many other purpose-led organisations, but it also includes small charities, those with under £1million annual turnover. The Small Charities Coalition exists to make life easier for small charities, as well as the countless micro charities that are unable to register. Our mission is to provide them with relevant support and make their voices heard.

We met with members across the country to ensure they could contribute, but thousands of small charities will not have had a say.

#### Small Charities Coalition Facts

**9,364** members

**785** organisations reached in training last year.

**10** years representing small charities

**168,001** registered charities in the UK

**97%** have a turnover of less than £1million. These share only **20%** of charity sector income.

NCO Almanac 2018

### Case Study

The Maya Project is a partnership between eight small charities and organisations in Manchester. They work together to deliver 32 services a week to black, Asian, minority ethnic and refugee (BAMER) women and girls across the city. The project provides a range of holistic services which help, support and empower women.

Following the Manchester Arena attack in 2017, many Maya Project service users became fearful of being targeted and in some cases were subject to hate crime. In response, the Maya Project organised special confidence-building sessions for service users and offered advice on how to report hate crime. The charity also ran a workshop on community cohesion to share learnings from the wider impact of the attack.

### What did we recommend to the government?

- Continue to support initiatives that raise the profile of small charities.
- Do more to highlight the benefits and rewards that can come from volunteering.
- Give backing to the Digital Code of Practice that is being developed and promote it as a resource for charities to use.
- Review its policy of putting social value work out to professional tender.
- Help ensure a more collaborative approach to the commissioning of services – make sure the process works for small charities
- Help create a level playing field between small charities and larger organisations.
- Promote the business benefits in partnering with small charities.
- Ensure consultations are simple and supportive of small charities; remaining mindful of limited resources.