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and

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UK Third Sector

- 200,000 UK Third Sector Organisations
- £116 billion income from contracts, charitable donations and commercial activities
- Sector turnover bigger than the UK car industry
- Assets of £210 billion
- 1.3m workers – larger than the entire UK banking and finance sector
- Third Sector “earns” more than it is “given”
- A growing part of the public Health and Social Care industry.

ACEVO and Euclid

- ACEVO is the UK Third Sector CEO's organisations
- 21 years old
- 2000 members
- ACEVO supports, connects, develops and represents Third Sector CEO's
- Founder member of Euclid
- Euclid is building a "European Third Sector"
- 300 members in 23 countries.

RNIB

- Mission is to create a world where blind and partially sighted people have the same rights, responsibilities, opportunities and quality of life as sighted people
- 2m people with serious sight loss in the UK
- 100 people every day start to lose their sight
- Our job:
 - Prevent avoidable sight loss
 - Help people to be as independent as they want to be
 - Campaign to ensure blind and partially sighted people are properly included in all aspects of society

RNIB's Structure

- 150 years old
- Membership organisation
- 3200 members of staff / 5000 volunteers
- £125m annual turnover
 - 50% charitable donations
 - 45% government contracts
 - 5% commercial contracts
- EBU and WBU member
- Founder of UK Vision Strategy
- Provider of Health and Social Care services

Current UK Climate

- Increased demand for services
- Fiscal challenges – e.g. increasing costs, decreasing charitable donations, investment losses etc.
- Pre-election political paralysis:
 - Lack of planning and forward thinking
 - Fear of the future public spending cuts
- Personalisation agenda gaining momentum
- More collaboration between Third Sector organisations
- More competition from and for the Private Sector.

SSGI's in the UK

- There is no single model of SSGI within the UK nor an agreed definition of “social services”
- The work potentially covered by the term is very broad and provision is through many different models and types of organisations
- Funding for Health and Social Care services in the UK comes predominantly via taxation rather than insurance.

However.....

- There is a general drive to modernise and reform public services across the UK including a determination to strengthen:
 - accountability
 - transparency
 - cost-effectiveness and
 - responsiveness to customer need
- Growing realisation that Third Sector organisations are able to deliver on this agenda in a publicly acceptable way.

RNIB/EBU EU Activity

- 15 EU funded projects since 2005
- £1m EU investment in our work in the areas of:
 - Employment:
 - To combat poverty and social exclusion
 - To help blind people develop better skills
 - To improve long term job prospects
 - Accessibility:
 - Braille on medicines
 - Audio Description for television
 - Assistance for blind air passengers
 - Reduced VAT on audio books

RNIB Suggestions for Improvements

- Strengthen public procurement rules to make accessibility requirements mandatory
- Development of a horizontal “eAccessibility” directive to ensure digital equipment and services are available to blind and partially sighted people
- A European Disability Act to tackle these problems?

Thank-You