



charities  
evaluation  
services

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## Response to New Philanthropy Capital Call for Impact Fund

CES supports the sector to assess and demonstrate the difference it makes. To this end, we work with hundreds of charities and their funders each year, building their skills in impact assessment. We know that it can be difficult to measure impact, but we also know that it can be done. And it need not be very expensive or time consuming and, done well, will always lead to better decisions, learning and, ultimately, services.

We welcome NPC's call for a new fund to help charities measure the difference they make. Implemented successfully, this would be a powerful asset to the sector. Running a new fund through Capacitybuilders would ensure that the focus is on developing the sector's own ability to assess and demonstrate the difference it makes. We believe that any new initiative should concentrate on building sector skills and should be designed in such a way that means support can be tailored to local needs and circumstances. Capacitybuilders already invest in successful performance management support programmes, and these could be expanded to increase their reach and impact.

NPC also calls for spending departments to coordinate the development of standardised frameworks for impact measurement. This initiative may unwittingly increase the regulatory burden on charities. Central statutory performance frameworks do not have a great track record. They can stifle innovation, and create unnecessary paperwork for front line staff. Times are now tough for many charities and likely to get tougher. CES calls instead for the elimination of all unnecessary reporting requirements where the information gathered is not subsequently used to demonstrate impact or for learning purposes.

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