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## **Capacitybuilders springs into action.**

Capacitybuilders was launched today at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham by Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, Paul Goggins MP, with over 280 representatives from the voluntary and community sector in attendance.

Capacitybuilders is a new agency which will work in partnership with government and other bodies to help voluntary and community organisations work more effectively. The agency - which is led by experts from the community and voluntary sector - will initially be funded from the Home Office.

Former government minister and Chief Executive of One Parent Families, Chris Pond, is chair of Capacitybuilders and commented in his opening speech: "this is a great opportunity for voluntary and community organisations which we believe they will embrace. The governments support of the sector in launching Capacitybuilders is a sign of its commitment, ensuring that voluntary and community organisations have the funding that they need to fulfil their potential and offer even more aid to the people they serve."

The first task of Capacitybuilders will be to manage the £70 million Change Up programme, a major investment in support for voluntary and community organisations.

**CONT.**

Chief Executive Simon Hebditch unveiled Capacitybuilders' strategy showing how the funds will be distributed and the objectives achieved. Simon commented : "it is essential that voluntary and community organisations working on the frontline have access to resources and expertise to help them improve their services to communities and individuals in need."

ENDS. 242 words.

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