Definition of the community and voluntary sector

Adopted definition

Community and voluntary sector organisations are often referred to as non-profit organisations. We have adopted the United Nations Non-Profit Institutions Handbook description of these organisations as being:

- organisations with some degree of internal organisational structure, meaningful boundaries, or legal charter of information
- non-profit, that is, not returning profits to their owners or directors and not primarily guided by commercial goals
- institutionally separate from government, so that while government funds may be received, the organisation does not exercise governmental authority
- self-governing, which means the organisations control their management and operations to a major extent
- not compulsory, which means that membership and contributions of time and money are not required by law or otherwise made a condition of citizenship.