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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Government pledges 1:1 match funding for Community Foundations
- Photo available -**

Kevin Brennan MP, Minister for the Third Sector, praised the work of the Community Foundations at their annual Parliamentary reception last week. He announced that local donors could now claim 1:1 match funding for money raised through the Community Foundations' Grassroots Challenge. The annual turnover of groups eligible for Grassroots grants is also raised from £20,000 to £30,000.

Community Foundations are the largest supporter of community projects outside of direct Government initiatives. Community Foundations together made around £70 million in grants to over 20,000 local community groups last year.

Rosemary Macdonald on behalf of the seven Community Foundations in the South West of England said: "We welcome the support of the Government in our on-going work to raise the profile of local giving and to encourage people to take responsibility for their own communities. The most obvious manifestation of this support is the Grassroots grants programme. This is a significant programme that has attracted new donors but finding new donors is a long process especially in the current economic climate. This is against an increasing need for local projects as times get harder and people require more assistance."

The 1:1 match funding means that for every £1,000 donated to Community Foundations community projects receive £2,560 after gift aid and match funding.

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For further information contact:

Veronica Hannon

M: 077 52875285

E: veronica@vmhassociates.co.uk

About the Community Foundation Network

Community Foundation Network, which comprises 57 local charitable foundations covering 94% of the UK population, is the UK's leading expert in revitalising local communities through effective charitable giving.

Its member organisations exist to connect those with money, with dynamic charities and voluntary groups whose capacity to change lives for the better is only inhibited by a lack of money. Together, they make around £70 million in grants annually to grassroots organisations across the UK.

Community Foundations use their local expertise to ensure that the money invested by over 12,500 corporate, individual and public donors, as well as more than £220 million in endowments, makes the lasting difference donors want and expect.

For more information visit www.communityfoundations.org.uk

About Community Foundations in South West England

There are seven Community Foundations in the South West of England:

- Cornwall Community Foundation <http://www.cornwallfoundation.com/>
- Devon Community Foundation <http://www.devoncf.com/>
- Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole Community Foundation <http://www.localgiving4dorset.org.uk/home/home.php>
- Gloucestershire Community Foundation <http://www.gloucestershirecommunityfoundation.co.uk/>
- Quartet Community Foundation – covering Bristol and Avon area <http://www.quartetcf.org.uk/>
- Somerset Community Foundation <http://www.somersetcf.org.uk/>
- The Community Foundation for Wiltshire & Swindon <http://www.wscf.org.uk/>