

ASSOCIATION OF CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2008

Charity No. 1105412
Company No. 5190466

Association of Charitable Foundations

Trustees Annual Report for 2008

A LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Status

ACF is a registered charity, with registration number 1105412. A company limited by guarantee, we are registered in England and Wales, with company registration number 5190466. Our governing document is a Memorandum and Articles of Association, incorporated 27 July 2004. The address of ACF's principal office and registered office is: Central House, 14 Upper Woburn Place, London, WC1H 0AE.

ACF has a wholly owned trading subsidiary, ACF Conferences and Seminars Limited, a company limited by share capital and incorporated on 5 January 2000, registration number 3902450. The surplus achieved by the trading subsidiary in 2008, mainly by way of Conference sponsorship, was gifted to the Association at the end of the financial year. The trading accounts of the subsidiary have not been consolidated into the main accounts of the Association.

Charitable objects

ACF's objects are *"to further the work of charitable grant-making trusts and institutions for the public benefit by:-*

- *advancing the education of the public in such trusts and institutions and carrying out research and publishing the results of such research;*
- *promoting the collective and individual effectiveness of such trusts and institutions and better methods of administration and management of their resources"*

These have been subsequently expressed as our **mission** through which, as a membership association, ACF supports the work of foundations and independent grant-making trusts in the UK by:

- Influencing the law and public policy affecting grant-making charities, and providing relevant information to the membership;
- Enabling trusts and foundations to learn from each other's experience, to discuss matters of common concern, to confer with funders from other sectors, and to achieve good practice in grant-making;
- Encouraging philanthropy and promoting the development of new grant-making foundations;
- Improving the understanding of trusts and foundations among grant-seekers and the general public.

Governance

The Governance changes implemented in 2007 have bedded down and are working well, and arguably the increased member support can be seen as a reflection of increased member confidence in the governance and strategic direction of the Association.

In March 2009 the Executive Committee agreed that it would be more appropriate for the Committee to be known as the ACF's **Trustee Board**, and for its members to be known as the Trustees.

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of the Association of Charitable Foundations for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Advisers

Bankers

Cater Allen Private Bank
9 Nelson Street, Bradford, BD1 5AN

Close Brothers Ltd
10 Crown Place, London, EC2A 4FT

Solicitors

Farrer & Co
66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3LH

Russell-Cooke
2 Putney Hill, Putney, London, SW15 6AB

Auditors

Kingston Smith LLP
Devonshire House, 60 Goswell Road, London EC1M 7AD

B TRUSTEE BOARD

The Board is responsible for the general management and supervision of the work of ACF. It comprises 12 elected members, together with up to five co-optees. All trustees must be a staff member or trustee of a subscribing member of ACF, and their term of office is three years with re-election for a further term permitted. One third of the elected members retire annually. Potential trustees are nominated by any member of the Association, and where there are more nominees than vacancies, an election is conducted by postal ballot. The Board met five times during 2008 in addition to an 'Away Day'.

New Board members have an initial induction meeting with the Chief Executive, and also meet with the Chair prior to attending their first meeting. They receive an information pack about ACF as part of their induction, together with sets of papers from recent Board meetings, and they have the opportunity to meet with the staff team. The induction pack also includes the relevant guidance for trustees from the Charity Commission. During this year, a formal 'Away Day' event was instituted, with the trustees meeting informally for dinner one evening, following by a facilitated half-day discussion the next morning at a venue apart from ACF's own offices. Trustees individually also attend a great deal of member events and thereby widen their awareness of current issues and concerns amongst ACF's membership. A number of trustees also participate in forms of training with their respective organisations.

CHAIR	Clare Thomas MBE	Chief Grants Officer	The City Bridge Trust
VICE-CHAIR	Mark Boleat	Trustee	Hillingdon Community Trust
TREASURER	James Brooke Turner <i>(from February 2008)</i>	Finance Director	Nuffield Foundation
	Dr Astrid Bonfield	Chief Executive	The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund
	Simon Buxton	Trustee	Noel Buxton Trust
	Martin Coppack <i>(from 26 June 2008)</i>	Development Manager	Financial Services Authority (FSA)
	Stephen Duckworth	Chairman	Leonard Laity Stoate Charitable Trust
	Fraser Falconer	Head of BBC Children in Need, Scotland	BBC Children in Need, Scotland
	Sandara Kelso-Robb <i>(from February 2008)</i>	Executive Director	Lloyds TSB Foundation for Northern Ireland
	Danielle Walker Palmour <i>(from February 2008)</i>	Director	Friends Provident Foundation
	Lisa Parker	Chief Executive	Nationwide Foundation
	Jacqueline Rae <i>(from 26 June 2008)</i>	Clerk to the Trustees	Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust
	Anna Southall	Trustee	Barrow Cadbury Trust
	Pam Webb <i>(from 22 October 2008)</i>	Head of Zurich Community Trust	Zurich Community Trust
	Rob Williamson <i>(from 26 June 2008)</i>	Assistant Director	Northern Rock Foundation

The following members of the Trustee Board also served during 2008:

	Anne Burleigh	Deputy Director	Northern Rock Foundation
	Toby Blume	Trustee	Travellers Aid Trust
	David Cutler	Director	Baring Foundation
	Teresa Elwes	Grants Executive	Bromley Trust
	Jonathan Sheldon	Financial Director	Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Sub-committees

Officers Group

CHAIR	Clare Thomas MBE Mark Boleat James Brooke Turner	The City Bridge Trust Hillingdon Community Trust Nuffield Foundation
-------	--	--

Nominations Committee

CHAIR	Anna Southall Simon Buxton Lisa Parker Clare Thomas MBE	Barrow Cadbury Trust Noel Buxton Trust Nationwide Foundation The City Bridge Trust
-------	--	---

2008 Conference Advisory Group

CHAIR	Astrid Bonfield John Bothamley Mubin Haq	The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund Four Acre Trust City Parochial Foundation and Trust for London
	Kevin Ireland Amanda Jordan OBE Roger Morris OBE Nick Perks	London Housing Foundation Baring Foundation P H Holt Foundation Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

Staff

David Emerson	Chief Executive
Stephanie Rae	PA to the Chief Executive
Carol Mack	Deputy Chief Executive <i>(Part-time, 4 days per week)</i>
Nick Neal	Head of Finance and Administration
Sonia Sinanan	Information and Communications Manager <i>(from Feb 2008)</i>
Juliana Bell	Membership Services and Special Projects Manager <i>(Part-time, 3 days per week from Nov 2008)</i>
Sue Benson	Publications Editor <i>(Part-time, 2 days per week until May 2008)</i>
Jenny Gibson	Administrative Assistant
Susan Mackenzie	Project Director, Philanthropy UK
Roxanne Clark	Newsletter and Web Editor Philanthropy UK <i>(until June 2008)</i>
Ben Eyre	Newsletter and Web Editor Philanthropy UK <i>(from June 2008)</i>

Risk Review

Having considered the ACF's Risk Assessment and Risk Register, the Association's Trustee Board has reviewed the major risks to which the Association may be exposed and is taking reasonable steps to mitigate them.

C OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

ACF adopted a new Strategic Plan for the period 2008-12. For these four years ACF will focus on three aims:

- To support members in their work – providing information, training and development opportunities;
- To provide opportunities for collaboration and the dissemination of new thinking in the sector and encourage new philanthropists to become involved;
- To act as an effective and authoritative voice for the common interests of members with Government, policy makers and others who can affect their distinctive role within the charity sector.

It will also give priority to one enabling aim:

- To manage and fund ACF so that it can be sustained as a resource for members in the longer term.

Our strategy, and the specific aims within it, was the result of a variety of consultations with members, including using a volunteer to undertake anonymous (to ACF) face-to-face interviews with a sample of our members on their views and priorities for ACF, supplemented by individual in-depth meetings between the Chief Executive and a group of larger foundations. The new strategy was announced at the AGM held during the Nottingham Conference, and followed up with articles in *Trust and Foundation News* and fuller information on the ACF website.

Inevitably, the substantial changes in the UK and world financial situations had immediate and potential longer term impacts for our membership, for whom investment is a substantial part of their activities. We therefore diverted some time and resources from late summer onwards to liaise with members on their responses to the economic crisis, and its impact upon them. This included a sample online survey of members; participation in other surveys and meetings; as well as input to the Office of The Third Sector's planned Third Sector Strategy to be launched in 2009.

D ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.

AIM 1: To support members in their work – providing information, training and development opportunities

The Strategy included creating a new post of Membership Services and Special Projects Manager to support and develop events for members. £39,000 of implementation funding was raised for this and the new appointment made in November 2008. In particular, the post holder is responsible for ACF's events programme and for leading a series of special projects to develop ACF's range of services, thereby ensuring we support and inspire our members in the context of a rapidly changing third sector and public service environment.

One priority from the 2007 Report was to develop and promote the **ACF website** as the primary communications and publishing tool for members. For a membership whose offices and activities are dispersed across the UK, and with trustees having only occasional contact with their trust, online provision of our services via the radically

improved website launched early in 2008 offers the possibility of greatly improved access to the range of ACF services and information. The site has a new structure that allows individual registration by staff and trustees of all members, and the ability to log on to Issue Based Networks, and to receive information and engage with other members directly. It is a first step in what will be a major transition for ACF's service delivery and member engagement. Considerable time and effort went into, and continues in, promoting and publicising the website and its benefits for members.

Our information is provided principally through **two regular publications: *Trust and Foundation News* (TFN) and *Funders News***. TFN, externally printed, has an extensive circulation within many member trusts. During 2008 we published three issues, keeping readers up to speed with grant-making trends, and especially offering the opportunity for both trustees and staff to share the experience and perspective of other foundations. The production process changed midway through the year following Sue Benson's departure from ACF and was brought in-house with the support of an external editorial consultant.

During the year we undertook a **survey of TFN readers** that revealed a positive member response to it but which gave indications of ways in which the magazine could be improved. We are now implementing a process of gradual change and development for the magazine – bringing in new features and design.

Funders' News is our monthly news bulletin for foundation directors and their staff, providing a frequent and informal summary of developments in legislation, regulation and the policy arena that are particularly relevant for trusts and foundations. Where a new development merits an in-depth study, we supplement *Funders' News* with a members' briefing, as we did for example with an initial briefing on Public Benefit and Grant-making Charities, and another on Substantial Donor Legislation.

Our major individual publication during 2008 was the report of our **Grant Risk Management Project**, the aim of which was to raise awareness of the risk of fraudulent applications within member trusts and foundations, and to help share and develop good practice in this area. The project was supported by a consortium of members and led by a part-time project officer, Melanie Griffiths. The Project ended in 2008 with the publication of a substantial report entitled *Tackling External Grant Fraud: a guide to help charitable trusts and foundations deter and detect fraud* and which was endorsed both by the Fraud Advisory Panel, and the Charity Commission with the statement that *"If your charity hasn't assessed fraud risks and taken actions to minimise them then it's a sitting duck. ACF's guidance covers everything you need to know, and do, to make sure your foundation can analyse its risks and is equipped to manage them practically and effectively."* While never a headline grabbing document this is an example of core work for members providing detailed and precise guidance and best practice that leaves them better prepared against a growing threat, as well as offering the potential to improve their grant making practices.

Our publications provide a permanent record of knowledge shared and are accessible to all of our members, via our website, and to non-members through publication sales.

Beyond the provision of information via publications, this strategic aim is fulfilled by our training activities through our **Professional Development Programme** (PDP) and our member led meetings around funding issues, the **Issue Based Networks** (IBNs).

The **PDP** is a series of seminars and workshops that focuses on key aspects of good grant-making practice and had been organised around an academic year. The programme draws very heavily on the knowledge and experience of our members, who generously give of their time by sharing their practical expertise on issues as varied as: *Performance reporting for foundations* and *An introduction to monitoring and evaluation*. During 2008 we moved to scheduling the programme over a calendar year to start in January 2009 and with the help of an external consultant published a greatly enhanced programme.

Over 250 people attended the 16 PDP and other special seminar events we ran during 2008, some of which are open to non-members.

The **IBN networks** are convened *by* members exclusively *for* members and bring together diverse trusts that share an interest in a particular funding area or aspect of grant-making. 21 meetings were held during 2008, attended by over 300 members.

Networks meeting in 2008 were

- Arts and heritage
- Asylum, refugee and migration
- Business foundations and trusts
- Capacity building
- Children & young people
- Domestic abuse
- Faith based projects
- Grants to individuals
- International development
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Northern Ireland funders
- Older people
- Penal affairs
- Soloists – members who administer one or more trust as a sole employee

In addition, ACF members with an interest in environmental issues have an open invitation to attend the Environmental Funders Network.

We supported members in their work in three additional ways during 2008:

1 We continued to provide **guidance and signposting for single member queries**. During 2008 ACF responded to over 700 individual requests for help or advice on a wide range of topics including:

- Grant-making practice and policy
- Legislative and regulatory issues
- Staff and human resources concerns
- Developments and trends in grant-making and the wider voluntary and community sector.

When appropriate we either answer these questions ourselves, or signpost members to other organisations or other members who might help. We are very appreciative of the support such members offer to others in this way.

As the Association representing grant-makers we get many enquiries from the UK and from abroad, seeking or asking about funding opportunities. Although not part of our core role, we respond to these enquiries as efficiently and effectively as possible – often referring enquirers to information available on our website or from other bodies.

Other enquiries from non-members include those from individuals or companies considering establishing a grant-making trust.

2 **The Quality Framework** published in 2002 is a guide to quality management for independent grant-makers but it is now dated and our support to members through this needs to be reviewed. We carried out a scoping study of the work required, and followed up with a member survey. This work will continue into 2009.

3 A significant achievement in 2008 that furthered this aim was the development of the **Northern Ireland Knowledge Hub** on ACF's website, supported by some member funding from the Abbey Charitable Trust.

Our convenient location, close to Euston, St Pancras and Kings Cross stations, has continued to prove accessible and attractive to many of our members based outside London. We offer a **free hotdesk facility** for those with time to spare between meetings who want a place to work or review papers in an office environment, as well as a meeting room, available to members at an extremely competitive rate. Many of our members have used this facility to hold trustee meetings. We also offer members access to a resource library, with a wide range of publications about foundations and grant-making.

AIM 2: To provide opportunities for collaboration and the dissemination of new thinking in the sector and encourage new philanthropists to become involved

The most significant individual event in furthering this aim was the **residential conference** in Nottingham in June: *Thorny questions, Fruitful answers: foundations meeting contemporary challenges*, which focused on the major challenges of today – both internationally and here in the UK – and their implications for foundations. With 150 attendees, evaluation forms showed that 90% of delegates were satisfied, or very satisfied, with the event.

Developing from what we said last year, we are now implementing an annual conference programme (it was previously biennial), alternating one year non-residential with a residential event in the other year. This responds to the diversity of members for some of whom a residential format suits, while others, especially smaller foundations with perhaps only part-time staff, find a one day event more practical.

The Issue Based Networks reported above also provide opportunities for collaboration between members, and during 2008 a revised model of support was introduced, which also helped ensure better reporting of discussions for other members via TFN.

At the end of 2007 ACF successfully tendered to provide the **secretariat for the Woburn Place Collaborative**, a grouping of (now) 18 member foundations with a combined focus on social justice and collaboration. The first meeting administered was in April, and through the year substantial support was provided to deliver an agreed programme. Besides the formal meetings, this included a survey of the trustees of WPC members, and mapping collaborations between WPC members.

In July we secured funding from the Office of the Third Sector for **Philanthropy UK** for a further two years until March 2011. ACF is one of five strategic partners selected for the funding stream that reflects the Government's commitment to promoting charitable giving, as laid out in its manifesto on *A Generous Society*.

The Philanthropy UK project has continued to provide guidance on effective giving to new and potential philanthropists. The project's website, [www.philanthropyuk.org] linked to ACF's, includes a number of resources for new givers, providing them with the tools, the information, and the confidence they need to begin their own giving journey. There is also an expanded Philanthropy Directory. In March 2008 there were 5300 unique visitors to the website, a figure which continued to build during the year.

The flagship **Philanthropy UK Newsletter** also continues to develop, exploring themes during the year such as the growing involvement and influence of women in major philanthropy; understanding philanthropy with articles exploring what we know, and don't know, about philanthropy in the UK; international philanthropy; as well as an exploration of the outlook for philanthropy in the economic downturn. By the end of the year the number of subscribers was close to 3000. Critical to the *Newsletter's* success is the hard work and dedication of its voluntary Editorial Board, chaired by David Carrington. We are especially grateful to David together with Beth Breeze and Sue Wixley, and also to Roxanne Clark, who worked as a consultant Newsletter and Web Editor during the year prior to the arrival of Ben Eyre in June. The fortnightly *News Bulletin*, which keeps readers abreast of current news, events, and other resources in UK philanthropy continues to gather subscribers and complements the quarterly *Newsletter*.

The Newsletter's Special Report in 2007 on *Women & Philanthropy*, which was the first contemporary report into women and philanthropy in the UK, was followed in 2008 by a major event for women philanthropists organised with Coutts that was well attended and highly rated.

Our Philanthropy UK project continued its advocacy work on behalf of individual donors, engaging with Government on the development of Government's policy on promoting charitable giving, including tax-related issues affecting UK donors. The Project Director was invited to open the discussion on Lifetime Legacies at a round table discussion attended by Jane Kennedy, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and latterly the Director has been involved in the consultation on Substantial Donor Legislation which we believe adversely impacts upon such donors, whether as individual philanthropists or giving through a foundation.

Work started on the third edition of *A Guide to Giving*, which was due to be published in 2009.

Opportunities for collaboration and the dissemination of new thinking were also provided by the second residential event for funders in Northern Ireland (NI), held in Ballymena in October. The event attracted 29 ACF delegates – two thirds from outside NI and demonstrated the reinvigorated interest in such funding. Since the last conference in 2007, more than £5 million in new funds had been committed to NI by members, alongside their existing programmes, and there was enthusiasm for working together more effectively across a variety of issues. Following an update on the current social and political context on the first day, on the second day 21 representatives of voluntary and community organisations joined members for a highly successful ‘Question Time’ session. There was a strong sense of the need to keep up the momentum at a time when independent funders really can make a difference.

The success of the IBN and the conference was due to a member steering group, together with strong administrative support which could not have been delivered without the Lloyds TSB Foundation for Northern Ireland’s grant that enabled ACF to give dedicated professional support to the IBN and to the conference. The additional funds liberated for use in NI and the increase in understanding and confidence of those members funding there, has proved this to be highly effective funding.

Once again the success of the event demonstrated that having additional resources and administration specifically for the group of funders with an interest in Northern Ireland is a very successful way of supporting such members in their work and ultimately of providing more effective funding for their beneficiaries in the devolved administrations. At the end of 2008 an application was made to the Lloyds TSB Foundation for Northern Ireland for funding to support a part-time post based in Northern Ireland and to encourage philanthropy development.

ACF has continued to work with a range of partners that support grant-making organisations in differing ways and may share our objectives when lobbying on policy. These include the Community Foundation Network, for whom we allow their members a discount on our events, and whose involvement in Philanthropy UK we value. We have regular liaison with the Association of Charity Officers whose member benevolent funds share many of our interests in the management of endowments and in the effective distribution of grants to individuals.

Of the bodies that may support grant-makers, we maintain a frequent dialogue with New Philanthropy Capital who make their reports available to our members, contribute substantially to Philanthropy UK through representation on the Newsletter Advisory Board as well as contribute to a number of our member events. We contribute to the Charity Tax Group with whom we have worked on donor linked issues including Substantial Donor Legislation, Gift Aid and Lifetime Legacies, and we are also a member of the Giving Forum contributing to its biannual meetings.

The Chief Executive attends the bi-annual meetings of the Scottish Grant Making Trust Group (SGMTG), including the biennial residential event held in Douneside in April. The group brings together almost 30 trusts in Scotland, and through our participation we get a much clearer picture than would otherwise be possible of current issues in Scotland, including the activities of OSCR, the Scottish charity regulator. He also attends three meetings a year of the Foundations Forum grouping of larger foundations.

The Chief Executive maintains close links with European Foundation Centre, and moderated two sessions at its annual Conference. He is active in EFC's subgroup DAFNE, meeting twice a year, which is the group of the CEOs of the national donor associations across Europe and which has now developed its own support website. ACF's Chair also attended DAFNE's meeting in May 2008. ACF participates in WINGS (Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support), and in May the Chief Executive was invited to contribute to the annual conference in Washington of the Council on Foundations, the equivalent but substantially larger body to ACF in the USA. This was followed by an invitation to contribute to a seminar of the Brazilian association for donors in Sao Paulo in December. He maintains email contact, supplemented by quarterly conference calls, with his counterparts running the membership associations for trusts and foundations in Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

ACF continues to offer support to London Funders (LF) which has its administrative base within Central House, paying ACF a fee for some financial and other services. LF and ACF will also work together on shared interests for trusts and foundations funding in London.

ACF continued to provide advice to Cass Business School (at the City University) on the content of its Masters course in grantmaking management and contributed to the lecture programme.

AIM 3: To act as an effective and authoritative voice for the common interests of members with Government, policy makers and others who can affect their distinctive role within the charity sector

Providing coherent responses to policy proposals that reflect the concerns of members lies at the core of any membership association that seeks to develop a more supportive context for its members' work. Over the year ACF actively contributed to various consultations that we saw as pertinent to members' own work, including those on Charitable Incorporated Organisations; Public Benefit Guidance; and Substantial Donors; together with the Charity Commission's consultation on Hallmarks of a charity. We engaged in other discussions extending the boundaries of our interests. Copies of our consultation responses are available in the members' area of ACF's website.

While we maintain contacts with the **Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator**, and have contributed to the consultations linked to the forthcoming establishment of a **Charity Commission for Northern Ireland**, for the overwhelming majority of our members the relevant regulator is the **Charity Commission for England and Wales**. We have a strong relationship with the Commission, and our engagement with them during the year on behalf of our members has included:

- At the Commission's invitation, input to the redesign of the online register to ensure that an appropriate description of the role and purpose of endowments was available to readers.

- Arising from issues reported by our members, we had extensive liaison with the Commission on the effective operation of corporate foundations, including a discussion with some members hosted by the Commission, with the planned outcome of a Commission publication in 2009 to bring together in one place all their guidance on such foundations.
- The Commission strongly endorsed the publication arising from our Grant Risk Management Project: *Tackling External Grant Fraud* (as noted more fully under Aim 1, above).
- ACF's Chair and Chief Executive took part in one of the Commission's series of engagement meetings.
- During the year we began discussions with the Commission as it progressed its new duty (to which ACF contributed during the passage of the 2006 Charities Act) to act in a way that encourages charitable giving.
- Towards the end of the year, ACF was planning to host two SORP stakeholder roundtables, and the Secretary of SORP Committee started working with ACF to update *SORP Made Simpler*.
- The Chief Executive continued on an informal advisory group which gave input to the Commission on their planned update of their own guidance document on campaigning by charities, CC9.

ACF also maintains strong contacts with the Government's **Office of the Third Sector**, in part through our status as a Strategic Partner in respect of the funding ACF receives for the work of Philanthropy UK. During 2008 this contact included contributing to the planning of a US/UK philanthropy summit announced by the Prime Minister in April; and especially initial work on the Third Sector Action Plan being developed at the end of the year in response to the recession.

We also improved our contacts with the **Treasury and HMRC** through Philanthropy UK, with input to consultations or working groups on Substantial Donor Legislation (SDL) and lifetime legacies; and meeting with the head of the charity tax policy department of Treasury.

ACF facilitated meetings with **NOMS** (formerly known as probation services) and the Ministry of Justice to enable members of the Penal Affairs IBN to comment on Government policy and to try to ensure greater impact of our members' funding. With the prospect of a General Election by June 2010, ACF has started to develop contacts with the Opposition political parties and we facilitated two discussions between members of the Penal Affairs IBN and the (then) **Shadow Justice Minister** Nick Herbert. The second meeting was an opportunity for members to provide views on the Conservative policy document *Prisons with a Purpose*. The Director of Philanthropy UK also spoke at fringe meeting events at the Liberal and Labour party conferences.

ACF also acted as a voice for members using the feedback from our pilot survey of members in the Autumn on the impacts of the recession and credit crunch. We used this information to contribute to a joint survey with the Institute of Fundraising and the Charity Finance Directors Group. We were also invited to be a part of the NCVO/OTS recession Summit in November where again some of our data was part of the overall analysis but where we were also able to get a wider picture of the likely impact on the sector and of the implications for our members and their beneficiaries.

