

EMBARGOED Date: 7 April 2016 Time: 00.01

MEDIA RELEASE

Leading voluntary sector group welcomes first round of investors

The Voluntary Organisations Disability Group (VODG) representing leading not for profit disability organisations has announced the first round of companies joining its investors' programme. The investors' programme is designed to enable industry experts to actively support VODG and its members in the pursuit of progressive, high quality care and sustainable services for disabled people. The organisations joining the programme are:

- Agenda Consulting
- Capita Specialist Insurance
- Trowers and Hamlins Law Firm

Making the announcement VODG chief executive Dr Rhidian Hughes said:

"We are taking further steps towards greater collaboration and co-production with industry experts to further strengthen our group. We welcome the commitment all three organisations have demonstrated in seeking to actively support VODG in delivering on its strategic priorities and charitable aims".

Roger Parry, Director at Agenda Consulting responded:

"We are excited to be joining VODG's investors' programme. We have worked with VODG for several years and with many VODG members. Joining the investors' programme will help to strengthen our relationships in the sector, take our partnership with VODG to a new level, and enhance our ability to develop innovative and cost-effective services for VODG members". Richard Hearn, Head of Care at Capita Specialist Insurance Solutions said:

"It's exciting to be part of this new chapter for VODG. Having worked with them and their members for many years, we've gained an in-depth understanding of their insurance needs. This collaboration will allow VODG members to benefit even more from our specialist knowledge and expertise".

Emma Burrows, Partner at Trowers and Hamlins added:

"We are thrilled to be joining VODG's investors' programme. We look forward to bringing our ethic based commercial legal services to VODG, and its members. We believe that this will be a long-term and sustainable partnership through which, together and collaboratively, we can be part of the solution. We are excited about the opportunity to work with VODG and VODG members to deliver commercial solutions for the benefit of the people VODG members support."

Notes for editors

Voluntary Organisations Disability Group (VODG) represents leading voluntary and charity social care disability provider organisations. VODG members are pan disability and work across social care, health, housing and education. Together they work with around a million disabled people, employ more than 85,000 staff and have a combined annual turnover in excess of £2.6 billion.

The programme allows industry experts to invest in, and share the success, of VODG. It enables industry experts to demonstrate a commitment to VODG members and the sector as well as supporting a vision of full choice and control for disabled people.

VODG welcomes the diversity in the supplier market and actively encourages both smaller and larger organisations to become involved in our work.

Find out more about VODG via our website <u>www.vodg.org.uk</u>, email info@vodg.org.uk or tweet to @VODGmembership.