



## Charities Safety Group and Westminster City Council

### Lead authority partnership scheme (LAPS) agreement

This document describes the terms and aims of the partnership agreement between the Charities Safety Group and Westminster City Council. Both parties recognise that this agreement breaks new ground within the LAP scheme. The Charities Safety Group is not an employer or trade association but a health, safety and welfare group that operates within the voluntary, charitable and not-for-profit sectors.

The Charities Safety Group is a properly constituted body founded in 1997. Membership is restricted to organisations that are not-for-profit, charitable or voluntary agencies. These organisations nominate individuals to participate in the activities and running of the Charities Safety Group. Charities Safety Group is directed by a management committee that is elected from the membership at each annual general meeting.

#### Partnership Agreement Aims:

- To promote the highest standards of health, safety and welfare management amongst charitable, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations within the UK.
- To support the development of national policies and standards for employers and other agencies within the sector.
- To identify and promote the use of best practice by agencies within the sector.
- Support the self-help and networking activities of the Charities Safety Group.

The partnership has a framework that sets explicit boundaries and clarifies the roles, responsibilities and limitations for both parties.

Both parties are committed to the development of an active and meaningful relationship. Each partner organisation will commit the resources necessary to sustain those individuals who make up the liaison team and support the work that arises from it

The Westminster City Council lead officers are from its Health and Safety Team in the Community Protection Department. The nominated liaison officers from the Charities Safety Group are its current Chair and a management committee member.

Charities Safety Group will use the services of Westminster City Council as a resource to assist with the development of policy and guidance and to advise the group concerning health, safety and welfare enforcement issues raised by its members. The Charities Safety Group management committee will be the sole route for Group members to access this resource.

Westminster City Council will advise on specific requests. The suitability and relevance of any advice will necessarily relate directly to the level of detail provided with each request. Any advice provided by Westminster City Council is made available on the understanding that it is advice only and whilst based on good practice and current guidance, is subordinate to national guidance issued by the Health and Safety Executive. It is not intended as an authoritative interpretation of the law which only the Courts can provide.