



The Power of Giving

A speech by Lord Gus O'Donnell at the NCVO Conference 2016



Monday 18 April 2016

[\[Full speech here\]](#)

The Power of Giving

Thank you for inviting me to speak to such an important group of leaders. As someone about to take on the Chair of Trustees role at Pro Bono Economics, I feel I have much to learn from the collective wisdom in this room.

gaps in public provision, and in many cases, directly delivering services. You have passionate staff, both paid and unpaid. It is reassuring that there is growing evidence about the positive effects on wellbeing of volunteering but it must be challenging working in the current climate where it is all too easy to feel overwhelmed.

When I was head of the civil service, I said that our traditional values of honesty, objectivity, integrity and impartiality were a great building block but not enough for the challenges we were facing.

I added my **four Ps: pace, passion, pride and professionalism**. I think the same applies to your sector. You have never been short of passion but can you find ways to generate more pride in your achievements and operate with more pace and professionalism?

The full speech can be accessed [here](#).



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