



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Maria Donoghue-Mills to leave Novas Scarman**

Maria Donoghue-Mills, chief executive of the Novas Scarman Group, has decided to leave the organisation at the end of January 2010. She will be replaced on an interim basis by Susie Parsons and Maria is working closely with the Group's new chair Andrew Barnett to ensure a smooth handover.

Andrew Barnett, Group chair, said:

*"Maria has played a leading role developing the Novas Scarman Group. She oversaw the merger in 2007 of Novas with the Scarman Trust and PATH National and, more recently, has been actively engaged in addressing a range of difficult aspects raised by the TSA inquiry of last year.*

*We both believe the organisation is now emerging stronger and the new Board remains committed to ensuring Novas Scarman does the best possible job for disadvantaged people and communities now and in the future. The range and quality of our services and our strong staff team leave us well placed to deliver innovative provision that is both beneficial and cost-effective at a time when public investment will become scarcer.*

*Maria has played a critical part in making the organisation what it is today and we wish her well in the future."*

Maria Donoghue-Mills said:

*"It's never easy to move on from an organisation to which I have dedicated so much of my working life. But, after 15 happy years at the helm, I am confident in the new leadership of Novas Scarman and am ready to seek new challenges.*

*Andrew Barnett and the trustees have given selflessly of their time and support and I am certain that they will provide the strategic and financial direction needed to build on the turnaround I started last year. I firmly believe this will ensure the delivery of excellent, innovative services. I especially want to thank the previous chair, Gnosoulla Tsioupra-Lewis, as well as all the staff and other supporters for their contribution throughout my time at the organisation. I wish them all well for the future."*

<http://www.novasscarman.org>

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## **Notes to editors**

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The **Novas Scarman Group** is a major social justice charity committed to tackling disadvantage. It consists of 350 staff spread over England and Wales, turning over £14m a year.

The charity works at a local level to empower people and communities. It creates opportunities for positive change through personalised support and development, pathways into work and learning, social enterprise, inclusive local decision making, change programmes and releasing enterprise and cultural expression.

The group provides support for 10,000 grassroots and community organisations each year, and empowers 7,000 people within community based services.

**Maria Donoghue-Mills** was employed by the Novas Group from February 1995 and held various posts, starting as Director of Housing and Support, becoming co-chief executive of the new Novas Scarman Group in 1998 and then sole Chief Executive. Maria initiated the Group's pioneering customer employment programme, Novas Employment Works, the Group's extensive support services and development of a wide range of other new business areas. She has worked in the voluntary sector for 22 years particularly in the areas of homelessness, criminal justice, domestic abuse and providing support to vulnerable groups. She is a Social Enterprise Ambassador, a programme funded by the Office of the Third Sector.

**Susie Parsons** is an experienced management consultant and interim manager. A former Chief Executive of the Commission for Racial Equality, London Lighthouse and the Campaign for Learning, she has been running her own management consultancy business for more than four years. Her clients include a range of public and voluntary organisations and she has just finished an assignment as interim Chief Executive of the Barrow Cadbury Trust, which promotes social justice through grant-making and policy development.