



# NCS Strategy 2023–2025

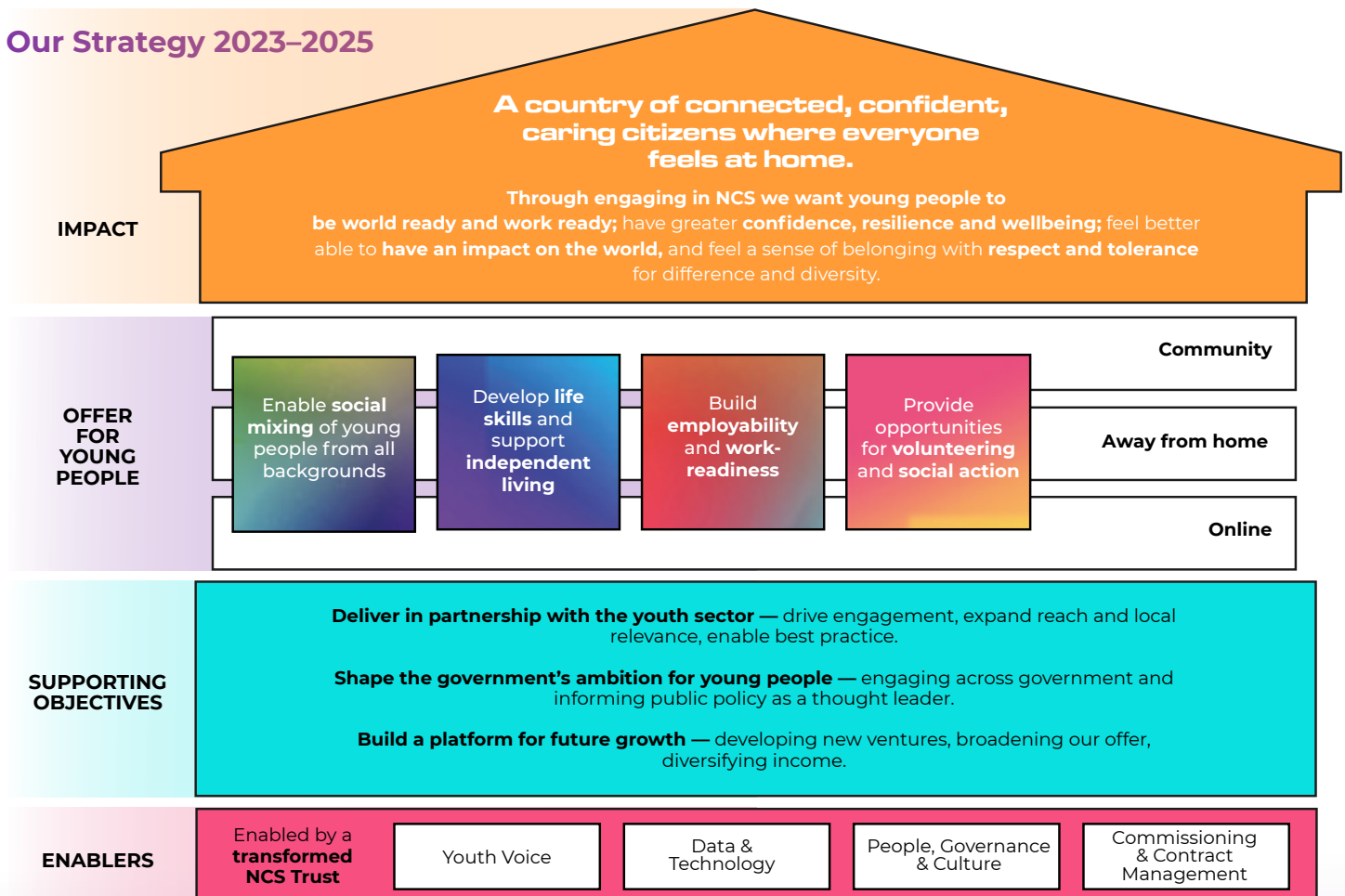
Our vision is a country of connected, confident and caring citizens where everyone feels at home. Since the inception of NCS in 2009, more than 800,000 young people have taken part in NCS — completing over 18 million hours of community-based volunteering and social action, and gaining priceless life experiences.

Today, the world is a different place for young people than it was when NCS was founded. A long shadow was left by COVID-19 along with significant advances in technology, a changing labour market, and the growing importance of volunteering for young people. We have defined the new NCS strategy for 2023–2025 to

be responsive to the changing needs of young people, the context of the youth sector, and the priorities of the government. This strategy outlines the impact we are seeking to achieve, our priority objectives, and how we will deliver them.

Young people across the country face significant challenges on a daily basis, with a mental health crisis, employment skills gap, a challenging job market, inequality in life outcomes, and a divisive society. But young people are the future, they want their voices heard, and there is an opportunity for them to make a real difference.

## Our Strategy 2023–2025



## Supporting young people to grow their strengths

NCS is designed to support young people to overcome and combat the challenges they face. We enable young people to:

- » Become world ready and work ready
- » Have greater confidence, resilience and wellbeing
- » Feel able to have an impact on the world
- » Have respect and tolerance for difference and diversity

We achieve that by providing away from home, online, and community experiences for young people. These experiences all have the following objectives:

- » Develop life skills and support independent living
- » Build employability and work-readiness
- » Provide opportunities for volunteering and social action
- » Enable social mixing of young people from all backgrounds

## Putting young people in the driving seat

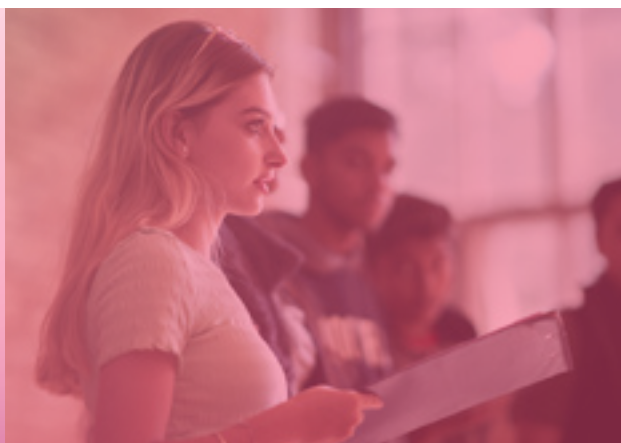
Young people are able to choose how they want to engage in the NCS experiences — whether that's signing up for a five day adventure away from home, attending their local community experience year-round, or engaging in online activities on a laptop or smartphone from their own home. The variety of experiences puts young people in the driving seat, giving them more choice than ever before around their NCS journey. All experiences offer a mix of fun activities, opportunities to develop skills for life and work, and the chance to make new friends from many different locations and backgrounds.

## Part of the government's National Youth Guarantee

NCS experiences account for a significant portion of the government's National Youth Guarantee — an ambitious commitment that, by 2025, every young person in England will have access to trips away from home, regular activities, and opportunities to volunteer.

We will continue to offer more life-changing NCS experiences for young people than ever before. To achieve this, we will:

- » **Deliver in partnership with the youth sector.** As a commissioner, we partner with many diverse organisations to deliver NCS experiences. We capitalise on the rich expertise in the youth sector and existing provision, while also supporting partners to better evaluate impact, inform best practice, and elevate youth voice.
- » **Shape the government's ambition for young people.** We support great policy-making through collecting data and evidence on what works, conducting wider thought leadership, and convening across sectors and government to inform best practice.
- » **Build a platform for future growth.** Delivering value for money is at the heart of our strategy, and we aim to reduce reliance on government funding through diversifying funding streams, initiating and scaling new ventures, and generating efficiencies.



## NCS is an evolving organisation

This strategy represents a significant transformation to better meet the needs of today's young people. This requires the organisation to evolve in a number of ways:

- » **Youth voice.** We remain committed to being led by the voices of young people, amplifying youth voice, and putting young people at the heart of decision making. We are evolving how youth voice operates at NCS through a new paid Youth Advisory Board, and embedding more regular representative youth insights into the organisation.
- » **Data and technology.** We are building on our existing digital and data capabilities, supporting partners with learning and data, prioritising monitoring, evaluation and learning at every opportunity, and enabling young people to navigate the new NCS offer via the MyNCS online platform.
- » **People, governance, and culture.** Delivering this strategy requires new organisational structures and governance processes, ensuring that NCS Trust is a great place to work.
- » **Commissioning and contract management.** Putting outcomes for young people at the heart of our strategy is driven by relationship-based, flexible, and accessible contract management.

We are committed to achieving positive impact with young people, value for money for the taxpayer, and value for our partners. We will hold ourselves accountable for delivering this strategy and we will always be transparent with the government, the public, and young people on our progress, achievements, and results.

