**NCS TRUST ANNOUNCED NCS 2.0, SEEKING MORE PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TO DELIVERY NCS PROGRAMME FOR SUMMER 2020**

* Procurement process begins September 2018 with contracts awarded in 2019
* Local organisations invited to bid for opportunity to change countless lives as part of a new strategy to reach more young people, deliver more impact, improve value for money and expand the network of partners

NCS Trust today announces its plan to deliver NCS 2.0 which will bring NCS Trust closer to local communities and frontline organisations - while reaching more young people, delivering more impact and improving value for money. This plan will be delivered by the launch of an ambitious recommissioning exercise to select partners to deliver NCS.

From 2020, NCS Trust will start to roll out a new “direct” model of delivery that is closer to the frontline in London, the South West and the North East of England. This will make it easier for NCS Trust to expand its network of local partners, test innovative approaches to delivery and build direct long-term relationships with schools, local authorities and delivery partners. It will also reduce duplication to focus even more resources on young people. The remaining six regions will benefit from an improved version of the current, indirect network structure, as the new direct model is tested and developed.

**NCS 2.0, the next step in the Trust’s journey, will:**

* **Reach more young people.** One in six eligible teenagers currently participate in NCS, making it the fastest growing movement in over a century in this country. NCS 2.0 will go further to build closer relationships with schools, colleges, local authorities and youth organisations to deepen and strengthen the programme’s reach. The Trust will also retain a dedicated Inclusion Fund to help reach disadvantaged young people most likely to benefit from the programme.

* **Deliver more impact.** Previous independent evaluations show the positive impact NCS has on participants. NCS 2.0 will bring even greater consistency to ensure all those who take part have a life-changing experience. The Trust will also test different models of delivery, incorporating other areas of interest to young people, such as digital, sports, drama and the arts.

* **Improve value for money.** Independent evaluations highlight a positive financial return on investment and NCS 2.0 will ensure an even greater return for taxpayers by seeking more efficiencies, while protecting frontline delivery. Recommissioning the network will involve removing management layers and duplication to better leverage scale, while being more transparent about costs to drive innovative ways to deliver the NCS programme.

* **Expand our network of partners.** NCS 2.0 will build the delivery of the programme from the bottom up, encouraging more local organisations to become part of the NCS network, allowing them to benefit from the funding available. Organisations which are awarded contracts will use this investment to enrich the impact NCS has on young people and their wider communities.

**Michael Lynas, CEO of NCS Trust, said:** *“NCS has achieved so much already, by helping to change the lives of nearly 500,000 teenagers, but we are ambitious for the future. We have a vision for NCS 2.0 that allows us to reach more young people and deliver greater value, by putting great, local organisations in the driving seat. In order to bring this vision to life, we need more amazing organisations to step up and join us in our crucial work to empower the next generation to be their best.”*

From mid-September, detailed information regarding the procurement is available from: <https://ncs.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.html>

**- END -**

**Notes to editor**

* New provider contracts will be in place by July 2019 for seasonal delivery in 2020. The length of all new contracts will be for an initial term of three years, with a potential for this to be extended for up to two years. Ensuring all available contracts are the same term ensures future strategic direction can be determined across all services.
* In the three direct regions the Trust will contract directly with local delivery partners. The other six regions will use an indirect model - an improved version of the current network structure, in which NCS contracts with regional managing partners, who in turn contract with delivery partners.
* In partnership with DCMS, NCS will measure the success of both models with the aspiration to replicate the Direct Partner model nationally.
* NCS is currently delivered by more than 100 organisations, including 50 youth organisations, 43 sports clubs, and 8 councils.

**Contact**

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**About NCS**

NCS is a government backed programme established in 2011 to help build a more cohesive, mobile and engaged society. By bringing together young people from different backgrounds for a unique shared experience, NCS helps them to become better individuals, and in turn better citizens.

NCS is open to 16 and 17 year-olds across England and Northern Ireland. The two to four week programme, which takes place in school holidays, includes outdoor team-building exercises, a residential for participants to learn ‘life skills’, a community-based social action project and an end of programme celebration event.

To date:

* Almost 500,000 young people have taken part
* Twelve million hours of community action have been completed
* For every £1 spent, NCS’ 2016 summer programme delivered between £1.15 and £2.42 of benefits back to society

It costs participants just £50 or less to take part in NCS and bursaries are available on a case by case basis. Support is provided for young people with additional needs.

To find out more visit [NCSyes.co.uk](http://ncsyes.co.uk/).

**About NCS Trust**

National Citizen Service Trust is a not-for-profit organisation incorporated by Royal Charter and established to shape, support, champion and lead a thriving National Citizen Service.

National Citizen Service Trust is registered in England and Wales with Royal Charter Body number RC000894. Our registered office is at The Pembroke Building, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road, London, W14 8DG.