



NCS Trust CEO and Founder announces plan to step down in 2020

NCS Trust CEO and Founder Michael Lynas announced today that he will step down from his post next year.

Michael has spent more than ten years involved in NCS since helping to establish it in 2009 and has now decided it is the right time to seek new challenges.

Former Prime Minister David Cameron and former Home Secretary Lord Blunkett both paid tribute to his energy and vision in guiding NCS through its first decade.

Michael became the organisation's first CEO in 2013 and helped to transform the lives of almost 600,000 young people who have undertaken the programme. Under his tenure, he secured NCS's long-term future by guiding it through the NCS Act and Royal Charter, both of which were passed with cross party support in Parliament.

He will remain in post until spring / summer 2020 while a new leader is recruited. After his successor is appointed, he will continue to champion NCS as NCS Trust's Founder and Patron.

"It has been the privilege of my life to have led NCS over the last decade, as we have empowered almost 600,000 young people to build bridges across social divides and ladders to opportunity," Michael said.

"Just as I am ready for my next challenge, NCS is now ready for its next decade. Our cross party support is enshrined in legislation and protected by Royal Charter, we have a strong and experienced leadership team, and NCS 2.0 – our major recommissioning - has started to deliver with a fresh brand and a fantastic network of local partners that has doubled in size.

"NCS is brought to life by thousands of inspirational colleagues working up and down the country, not to mention the young people who choose the programme. I want to thank every one of them for their passion and purpose.

"NCS is a lifelong passion for me and while I am proud to hand NCS on to my successor in great shape in 2020, I will continue to champion the values and mission of NCS Trust as Founder and Patron."



Brett Wigdortz OBE, Chair of NCS Trust, paid tribute to Michael:

“As the founder of Teach First, I know how hard it is to start something and how many different ways people find to tell you that something can’t be done. Michael’s passion has not only brought a new idea into the world, but allowed it to flourish as something amazing.

“On behalf of everyone at NCS Trust, I would like to thank him for his leadership and for continuing to serve into 2020 while we select the right person to lead the second decade of NCS.”

Chair of NCS Patrons Mr Cameron said:

“NCS would not exist today without the immense energy and dedication of Michael Lynas. Since 2009, he has worked tirelessly to bring it to life both inside and outside of government. NCS is one of the things that I am most proud of during my time as Prime Minister because it makes such a tangible difference to young people’s lives. Michael’s public service has helped to establish a new national institution - an achievement of which he should be justifiably proud.”

Lord Blunkett said:

“Citizenship should be the glue that binds our society together, but our shared sense of belonging is under threat. That’s why what Michael and the NCS team have built is more necessary than ever. Since we first met almost a decade ago, Michael has recognised that NCS is such an important idea that it needs to be embraced by all political parties.

“This vision led to the National Citizen Service Act and Royal Charter which has broken the cycle of each new Prime Minister starting a new youth initiative. This has allowed NCS to learn what works best, spread this across the country and by doing so grow stronger and more relevant to the future of our country.”

-Ends-

Notes to Editors

For more information please contact: Kam Pearce or Jenna Brown on 020 3813 7892 / media@ncstrust.org.uk

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 600,000 young people have taken part
- Twelve and a half 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.

Visit NCS social media platforms on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

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.

To learn more about NCS Trust visit them on [LinkedIn](#)