



## NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE TRUST

### OFFICIAL

Minutes of a meeting of the board of directors held by teleconference at 08:30 am on Thursday  
20 August 2020

Present*:	Brett Wigdortz (Chair)	Mark Gifford (CEO)
	Paul Cleal	Dame Julia Cleverdon
	Ndidi Okezie	John Maltby
	Ian Livingstone	Lord Iain McNicol
		Ashley Summerfield
		Jermain Jackman (Youth representative)
	Deborah Tavana (observer)	Sam Freedman (observer)
	Michael Devlin (Secretary)	Natalie Perera (observer)
Apologies:	Dame Sally Coates	Dean Creamer (DCMS rep.)
	Tristram Mayhew	
	Darren Xibberas (invited as an observer)	Jas Khela (invited as observer)

\*all by teleconference

### 1. Welcome and declarations of conflicts of interest

- 1.1 Mr Wigdortz welcomed the Board to the meeting. In addition, introducing Natalia Perera and Sam Freedman to the wider Board as they join as members of the Impact and Safeguarding Committee and as observers to the Board.
- 1.2 There were no new conflicts of interest raised by any member.

### 2. Governance

- 2.1 Minutes from the board meeting on 04 June 2020 were approved with no changes.

### 3. Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) update

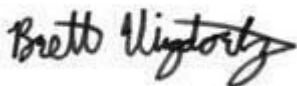
- 3.1 Mr Gifford outlined the context of the paper as tabled. The paper built on the ideas from the Board Strategy Day in July and outlined the ideas the Trust had developed further. In addition, the CSR approach responded to the different scenarios that DCMS had requested. In both of the funded scenarios, the programme is reformed and the Trust costs are reduced. The direction of the reformed programme was outlined at a high level, including the introduction of accreditation. The greater relationship with the wider youth sector is a focus for the Trust that continues. In addition, the proposal to explore a 'youth corp' idea was in the highest funded proposal for the Trust.
- 3.2 Mr Gifford outlined his aim for the session to gather the Boards' feedback on the paper, explore the options as outlined, including proposals to move to a reduced length programme, and understand any 'red-lines' a reduced funding scenario may breach.
- 3.3 Mr Wigdortz thanked Mr Gifford and commended him and the Trust team on the work to date. In particular, the focus on the reduction of central trust costs by 25% in 2020 so far.
- 3.4 The Board discussed the paper and provided its high level comments and suggestions for consideration in terms of approach and content. The board agreed that the potential

scenario of defunding and in effect closing NCS would not be a zero cost scenario given the c.£70m associated and that when viewed at a loss of benefits in aggregate it should show the impact that any decision would have on the government's levelling up agenda.

- 3.5 The Board discussed and understood the DCMS view that greater targeting should be explored and supported the proposed approach to retaining the universal programme with upweighting to support certain areas of representation or support. The Board also discussed its strong support for the role of NCS in the wider sector to be one of support through expertise and potentially infrastructure where appropriate.
- 3.6 The Board recommended that the management team include an upweighted bid for the Youth Corps idea in addition to the existing scenarios requested to paint the vision and create the ambition for the government to consider.
- 3.7 The Board discussed the merits of the different scenarios including what could be included if a cost in between the highest and middle scenario was also considered and recommended that this ability to slide up cost and exponentially drive up potential for benefit also be shown.
- 3.8 Finally, the Board agreed that any submission would be strengthened by ensuring that it showed the context NCS works in, the issues faced by young people and how the NCS proposal is the right solution to fund for these issues.
- 3.9 Mr Gifford was asked how the Board could be helpful. Mr Gifford confirmed that the main areas remained in their influencing of key stakeholders as well as support in creating a coalition with any sectoral contacts.
- 3.10 **Board Appointment:**  
Mr Wigdortz also updated the Board on the current status for the three vacancies on the Board.
- 3.11 ***ACTION:*** That Mr Wigdortz consider how to potentially gather wider Board views during the process.

The meeting closed at 09:30 am.

These minutes were approved as a correct and complete record of the proceedings by the Board at its meeting on 22 September 2020, and signed by the chairman as authentication.



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Chair