

## **NCS Trust and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award partner with The Centre for Education and Youth and UK Youth to carry out new research on education and enrichment**

NCS Trust and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) have commissioned [The Centre for Education and Youth](#) (CfEY) and [UK Youth](#) to carry out new research on education and enrichment. The research will explore what works to strengthen collaboration and coordination between the education and youth sectors to increase young people's access to quality enrichment and non-formal learning opportunities.

This research is part of a broader project led by NCS and the DofE, working across the education and youth sectors and government, to explore policy proposals aimed at increasing equitable access to enrichment for young people.

Enrichment and non-formal learning activities - which may include social action and volunteering, outdoor learning, sports and arts clubs, or adventures away from home - provide opportunities for young people to develop essential skills, engage with education, build confidence, improve their mental health and wellbeing, and increase social interaction.

With the pressures currently facing teachers and education staff, schools may not have the capacity to stay up to date with the enrichment and non-formal learning activities being offered by youth sector providers. At the same time, youth and enrichment/non-formal learning providers can struggle to reach young people who would benefit from their interventions, and don't always have the resources and relationships with schools to help them achieve this.

NCS Trust and the DofE have therefore commissioned this research, which runs from May - December 2023, to understand how collaboration and coordination between schools and local youth organisations can be strengthened, increasing young people's access to quality enrichment and non-formal learning opportunities, and maximising the expertise, infrastructure, and resources already in place.

CfEY and UK Youth will conduct a literature review, and carry out new research to produce ten case studies looking at how different approaches to collaboration and coordination work in practice, and what is needed to make them happen. They will then identify common themes of good practice to inform practical, actionable policy recommendations, and scope their potential for scale through national guidance or practical demonstration projects.

The research has been developed in consultation with the Department for Education, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, a range of education and youth sector stakeholders, and young people. NCS Trust and the DofE will continue to convene cross-sector and cross-government stakeholders to share learning and discuss the policy implications of emerging findings throughout the duration of the project.

This research is informed by and builds on existing and complementary work conducted by NCS and CfEY on [enriching education recovery post-pandemic](#), the [Times Education Commission 2022 Report](#) and the recent report [Better Together: Youth work with schools](#) led by the National Youth Agency (NYA).

CfEY and UK Youth are currently seeking prospective case study examples of effective education and youth sector collaboration to deliver enrichment opportunities to young people. In particular, grassroots and community-based youth organisations.

To explore collaboration with us on this research project, through providing a case study or sharing relevant evidence and reports to include, please contact Baz Ramaiah [baz@cfey.org](mailto:baz@cfey.org), project lead at The Centre for Education and Youth.

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## **About the DofE**

Every year, the DofE inspires hundreds of thousands of young people – from all walks of life – to develop skills, resilience and self-belief. We help them take on their own challenges, follow their passions, make a difference to their communities and discover talents they never knew they had.

DofE is open to any young person aged 14-24. Each young person builds their own DofE programme – picking their own activities and choosing which cause to volunteer for – in order to achieve a Bronze, Silver or Gold DofE Award. The DofE is run in schools, youth clubs, hospitals, fostering agencies, prisons, sports clubs and more, all over the UK. Find out more at [DofE.org](http://DofE.org).

For information about DofE please contact the DofE press office on 01753 727420 or email [media@DofE.org](mailto:media@DofE.org)

## **About NCS**

NCS offers a range of experiences for young people that support them to become world ready and work ready — through growing their confidence, independence and skills; connecting them with people from all walks of life; and empowering them to make a difference in their communities and wider society.

NCS is managed and supported by NCS Trust, our central team who are constantly working to make sure that NCS delivers impactful experiences to as many young people as possible. NCS is funded by the UK Government through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport as a core part of the National Youth Guarantee.

For more information, please contact the NCS Press Office – email [pr@ncstrust.org.uk](mailto:pr@ncstrust.org.uk) or call us on 020 3920 8576.

## **About The Centre for Education and Youth**

The Centre for Education and Youth (CfEY) is a 'think and action-tank'. We believe society should ensure all children and young people receive the support they need to make a fulfilling transition to adulthood. We create connections, insights and actions that improve young people's childhoods and life chances. We work with a wide range of organisations and people who share this belief, helping them to make wise, bold decisions about how best to support young people. We use our timely and rigorous research to get under the skin of key issues in education and youth, aiming to shape debate, inform policy and change practice. Set up as a community interest company, we are particularly interested in issues affecting marginalised young people.

[www.cfey.org](http://www.cfey.org) | [@TheCFEY](https://twitter.com/TheCFEY) | [hello@cfey.org](mailto:hello@cfey.org)

## **About UK Youth**

UK Youth is a leading charity with a vision that all young people are equipped to thrive and empowered to contribute at every stage of their lives. With an open network of over 8,000 youth organisations and nation partners; we reach over 4 million young people across the UK and are focused on unlocking youth work as the catalyst of change that is needed now more than ever. To find out more, visit [www.ukyouth.org](http://www.ukyouth.org).

**For further information, including interview requests with a UK Youth spokesperson, please contact the UK Youth press office on [press@ukyouth.org](mailto:press@ukyouth.org)**

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