

## **NCS Trust announces milestone £20m funding for grassroots organisations to help teens become ‘world ready and work ready’**

NCS Trust has announced a significant investment to help those on the cusp of adulthood to become world ready and work ready by awarding more than £20m in grants to fund the delivery of community-based experiences at a local and grassroots level.

These new experiences will complement NCS’ existing away from home residential offering by providing more opportunities for teenagers to engage in local activities that foster skills development, deepen their understanding of the community, and empower them to contribute positively to its improvement. The grants will also support organisations that cater to specific groups of young people who may not have participated in previous NCS initiatives.

In collaboration with the National Youth Agency and StreetGames, NCS assessed more than 400 applications and selected around 100 organisations to receive funding. Changing Young Lives, Young Bristol and Children North East are among the grantees chosen to deliver year-round activities for 16-17 year olds across the country over the next two years. In addition, a number of other organisations, including Girlguiding, The Children’s Society, Autismable, Dallaglio RugbyWorks and West Ham United Foundation will receive funding to work with specific, targeted groups of young people in their local communities.

The scope of these grants and the work NCS will be funding is vast; grant awards range from smaller grants to organisations like Firvale Community Hub in Sheffield, who work with disadvantaged young people who have experienced social and institutional exclusion over a long period; to larger grants, such as the award to Barca Leeds to work with a targeted demographic of young people in Yorkshire who are either not in receipt of education, employment or training (referred to as NEET), or where the indicators show they are at risk of joining this excluded group.

**Mark Gifford, CEO of NCS Trust**, expressed his enthusiasm, stating: “I am delighted to welcome a diverse range of local, grassroots and community organisations from across the youth sector to deliver reimagined NCS experiences. This allows us to reach more young people than ever before, ensuring they are equipped with the skills and perspective to become work ready and world ready. Additionally, our grants for targeted experiences will enable us to reach underserved young people and communities.”

Gifford added, “Together, we will work towards creating a country of confident, connected, caring citizens where everyone feels at home.”

NCS also offers an exciting residential programme for young people, primarily targeting areas and young people who have traditionally had fewer opportunities to get involved. The programme includes a five day stay away from home where participants engage in activities focused around employability, independent living or social action. In January, NCS Trust commissioned Ingeus and the Youth Hostels Association of England and Wales (YHA) to deliver the residential experience.

Over the past decade, more than 800,000 young people have benefitted from an NCS experience, dedicating over 18 million hours to community based social action, while gaining invaluable life experiences.

**– Ends –**

A full list of organisations receiving grant funding to deliver NCS experiences can be found at [wearencs.com/our-2023-grant-giving](https://wearencs.com/our-2023-grant-giving)

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 NCS (National Citizen Service)**

NCS is an experience like no other. Designed for 16-17 year olds, and for young people (aged between 18 and 24) with special educational needs and disabilities, NCS runs year round and offers a range of experiences for young people throughout the year, helping them to have greater confidence, resilience and wellbeing. Teens get the opportunity to mix with a new crowd, learn about independent living, take on new challenges and build friendships.

The programme is all about emboldening young people – by giving them a taste of independence, equipping them with essential life skills, and building work-readiness through volunteering and social action.

NCS participants will benefit from a new residential experience from 2023, which will consist of a five day stay away from home where they will take part in activities that centre around employability, independent living or social action. Young people will have access to digital experiences and will be able to take part in NCS closer to home with regular one-off activities where they can gain new skills, learn more about their local community, and how they can help to improve it.

Since 2009 more than 800,000 young people have benefitted from an NCS experience, completing over 18 million hours of community action, and gaining priceless life experiences.

NCS offers bursaries and support to those who need it most, including families on Universal Credit and young people with special educational needs or disabilities, in line with its commitment to make the life-changing NCS experience available to every young person.

NCS delivers value for money. £3.05 of benefits to society for every £1 spent. During lockdown NCS has had over 1.7 million unique engagements with teens through its 'Staying Connected' hub.

### **About NCS Trust**

NCS Trust is an Arm's Length Body of DCMS 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.

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