



Title of paper:	National Citizen Service	
Report to:	Children's Partnership Board	
Date:	2 nd July 2014	
Relevant Director:	Alison Michalska, Corporate Director of Children and Adults	Wards affected: All
Contact Officer(s) and contact details:	Jon Rea, Engagement and Participation Lead Jon.rea@nottinghamcity.gov.uk , 0115 8764817	
Other officers who have provided input:	Charlotte Croft, Youth Cabinet representative on the Children's Partnership Board	
Relevant Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) objectives(s):		
Stronger safeguarding	– With a key focus on ensuring that there are high standards of safeguarding across all agencies and that the Partnership takes a pro-active approach to the elimination of domestic violence.	
Healthy living	– With a key focus on increasing the proportion of children and young people who have a healthy weight.	
Reducing substance misuse	– Partnership work to lessen the impact on children of parental drug and alcohol misuse and to reduce drug and alcohol misuse amongst children and young people.	
Raising attainment	– Raising the attainment levels and increasing engagement in employment, education and training.	x
Improving attendance	– Improving rates of attendance at both Primary and Secondary as a key foundation of improving outcomes.	x
Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):		
<p>This report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informs the board about the scope of the National Citizen Service in Nottingham City and its impact on young people • Informs the board about how the Youth Cabinet is supporting the NCS programme • Asks the board to consider ways in which members of the Children's Partnership can work with NCS to help achieve the aims of the Children and Young People's Plan and other strategic plans 		
Recommendations:		
1	The Board recognises the positive impact of National Citizen Service on the lives of 16-17 year olds and its potential to bring numerous social benefits to the city.	
2	The Board agrees to support the National Citizen Service in developing their programme and promote the scheme as a valuable addition to the opportunities for young people in the city.	
3	Board partners are asked to consider how they can further contribute to citizenship development opportunities for children and young people.	

1. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

National Citizen Service (NCS) is a two to four week programme run in school holiday time designed to give 16-17 year olds new experiences, build life skills and develop them as citizens.

Each NCS programme consists of a residential adventure, followed by a series of skills development workshops, contact with charities and other voluntary sector organisations, and planning and delivery of a community action project. A formal graduation ceremony concludes each programme.

Nationally all young people aged between 16 and 17 are entitled to a place on the programme, which has sessions in spring, summer and autumn. NCS is inclusive and makes provision for young people with additional needs and specific cultural requirements. There is a £50 cost for the residential activity but most providers subsidise this for lower income households.

Young people complete the programme in teams of 15, each team supported by a group leader and a group mentor. Teams are design to be socially mixed to encourage young people to meet new types of people and make friends across the social and cultural spectrum.

National picture

NCS is a Government-backed scheme, graduation certificates are signed by the Prime Minister, and was introduced as part of the Big Society initiative. Original overseen by the Cabinet Office, following the piloting and full introduction of the scheme in 2013 a new National Citizen Service Trust took over governance of the scheme.

NCS in Nottingham

New College Nottingham and Nottingham Forest in the Community hold the NCS delivery contract for the Greater Nottingham conurbation. Since 2012, there have been 1217 graduates from Nottingham, performing a total of 36510 hours of social action; roughly 800 places are available to young people this summer. Approximately two thirds of the intakes are from the City with the other third from County boroughs.

In 2013 members of the Youth Cabinet supported by the Engagement and Participation lead engaged c.300 NCS graduates in training to develop their skills to deliver youth-led social action projects. They also undertook consultation on young people's needs and aspirations for the Children Development Strategic Commissioning Review led by Quality and Commissioning.

This year the Youth Cabinet will train NCS team leaders and mentorS to deliver the same training workshops. In addition as part of the drive to raise awareness about the new Individual Voter Registration scheme the Council's Electoral Services team will engage c.600 NCS graduates in 'Bite the Ballot' workshops. This will include workshops on why it is important to vote, question and answer with Councillors, and a registration of all NCS young people voters on to the attainers list (for 16 and 17 year olds).

Challenges and opportunities

In addition to this work there are other opportunities for the Children's Partnership Board and other Council partners to work with NCS and help improve the impact on communities of NCS social action programmes.

NCS would like to work more closely with the Children's Partnership Board to:

- Encourage awareness and sign-up of young people in the city and maintain good levels of participation
- Raise awareness and profile in schools and colleges
- Link NCS social action projects to community based groups and organisations and unlock the support and resources of community-based partners
- Find new partners to contribute to the NCS workshop programme and bring new citizenship experiences to young people
- Improve young peoples' understanding of the role of the Council and increase participation in active citizenship projects and forums after they have graduated

In addition Board members may have opportunity to link existing citizenship objectives with NCS.

2. RISKS

The contract holder for NCS in Nottingham and South Nottinghamshire is New College Nottingham in partnership with Nottingham Forest FC in the Community. The contract runs until 2018 after which the picture is uncertain.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

5. CLIENT GROUP

Young people aged 16 to 17 who are eligible to take part in the scheme.

6. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES

Addressed in the background report above.

7. OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED

This work contributes to the following CYPP outcomes: **Raising attainment**, through improving young people's focus on positive learning activity in informal settings; and **Improving attendance**, by motivating them to take a more active role in their own personal and educational development and improving their understanding of how organisations and institutions including schools and colleges can benefit them.

8. CONTACT DETAILS

Jon Rea

Jon.rea@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

0115 8764817



National Citizen Service

Presentation by:

Charlotte Croft
Rob Ghahremani
Uzair Hashmi



National Citizen Service (NCS)

Overview

National Citizen Service (NCS) is a two to four week programme run in school holiday time designed to give young people between the ages of 16-17; experiences, life skills and opportunity to develop as citizens.

Each NCS programme consists of a residential adventure, followed by a series of skills development workshops, contact with charities and other voluntary sector organisations, and planning and delivery of a community action project. A formal graduation ceremony concludes each programme.



NCS

NCS is inclusive and makes provision for young people with additional needs and specific cultural requirements. There is a £50 cost for the residential activity but most providers subsidise costs for lower income households.

Young people complete the programme in teams of 15. Each team is supported by a group leader and a group mentor.

Teams are designed to be socially mixed to encourage young people to meet new types of people and make friends across the social and cultural spectrum.



NCS Nationally

National picture

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NCS locally

Local Picture

New College Nottingham and Nottingham Forest in the Community hold the NCS delivery contract for the Greater Nottingham conurbation. NCS have recently been awarded contract extension for delivery to 2018.

Since 2012, there have been 1217 graduates from Nottingham, performing a total of 36510 hours of social action activity. 800 places are available this summer and Nottingham City young people will account for two thirds of this figure.



Youth Cabinet Involvement

Youth Cabinet contribution

In 2013 the Youth Cabinet ran workshop sessions for around 300 NCS members. Workshops included skills for running social action projects, conducting peer-led surveys and developing communication skills. Young people also got to visit the Council House and meet different Council staff and talk about how the Council works.

This year we will train staff to deliver the same workshops and also run a major engagement with Electoral Services to register 600 new voters under the new Individual Voter Registration scheme.



Youth Cabinet Involvement

Challenges

- Encouraging awareness and sign-up of young people in the city and maintaining good levels of participation
- Raising awareness and profile in schools and colleges
- Linking NCS social action projects to community based groups and organisations, unlocking the support and resources of community-based partners
- Finding new partners to contribute to the NCS workshop programme and bring new citizenship experiences to young people
- Improving young peoples' understanding of the role of the Council and increasing participation in active citizenship after graduation
- Links to other citizenship work in the City

