

# National Citizen Service

## Information Session

### September 2010



**CabinetOffice**

Office for Civil Society

1

Department for  
**Education**

# NCS Vision

---

- To offer every 16 year old in the UK a personal and social development programme that builds a sense of purpose, optimism and belonging
- A key strand of the Big Society
- A new feature of national life.



# Background

---

- Conservative Party made a call to the youth sector in 2006 for a programme that would engage young people and give them a sense of purpose, optimism and belonging
- Work began on the development of a residential programme informed by a range of organisations.

# Aims of NCS

---

- National Citizen Service is a flagship initiative supporting the Government's vision for building the Big Society
- The programme will promote:
  - **a more cohesive society** by including participants from different social, religious and ethnic backgrounds
  - **a more responsible society** by supporting the transition into adulthood for young people
  - **a more engaged society** by enabling young people to work together to create social action projects in their local communities.



# NCS Pilot 2011

---

- A voluntary 8 week programme available to 16 year olds. To take place from June to September 2011 in a range of locations across England
- Test a range of different approaches for NCS that, through core principles and components, offer a common experience
- Funding – clear expectation that the costs of delivering the pilot will be derived from a number of sources
- Funding is subject to confirmation following the spending review in October.



# NCS Core Principles

---

## NCS MUST BE VERY CHALLENGING BUT ENJOYABLE

- Phase 1: An introductory phase in which expectations will be set and relationships built between participants and staff
- Phase 2: Full-time residential team building experience away from participants' local community, focussing on teamwork, physical and mental challenges and opportunities for discussion and guided reflection (one week)
- Phase 3: Full-time residential based in participants' home community, focussing on developing new skills and serving the local neighbourhood (one week).



# NCS Core Principles

---

- Phase 4: Design a social action project in consultation with the local community (one week)
- Phase 5 onwards:
  - A period of 30 hours social action on a part-time basis
  - A fair/event to encourage participants to get involved in ongoing social action or volunteering activities in their area
  - A large celebration and graduation event for participants and their guests. It is anticipated that as a final challenge young people will play a full and active part in this celebration.



# Looking Ahead

---

- We also expect in the longer term NCS will include:
  - an alumni programme, including training sessions and reunion events, to build on the enthusiasm and relationships generated by NCS
  - encouraging employers and educational institutions to look favourably on NCS graduates
  - opportunities for outstanding NCS graduates to take part in a programme of social action projects in developing countries



# Young People

---

- Young people have been involved in the historical development of work that has led to the creation of NCS. Their direct contribution to the continuing development of NCS is essential
- We believe that all young people can benefit from NCS and the programme will be fully inclusive
- We expect young people to commit their best effort to the programme.



# Longer Term

---

- Policy development and programme management is jointly managed by OCS and DfE
- The start of the development of NCS
- Further pilots expected in 2012
- Looking towards national roll-out from 2013 to meet the ambition that all 16 year olds will eventually be able to participate in NCS



# Overview of the NCS programme

