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## **v targets hard to reach groups**

**v**, the charity set up to champion youth volunteering, is giving voluntary organisations working in under represented areas the chance to apply for grants of £100,000 to £300,000.

Following analysis of its first round of funding, **v** has found that a number of areas of the sector were under represented by applications, so funding has reopened for registered charities working with young people in the following areas:

- Who are disabled (including young people with mental health issues)
- Who are current or ex-offenders
- From black, Asian and minority ethnic groups
- Within the arts sector
- Within the sports sector
- Involved in campaigning
- Involved in intergenerational projects
- Who are in or leaving care

Organisations must also have the capacity to deliver a programme worth between £100,000 to £300,000 in the period April 2007 and March 2008. The application deadline is 23 February 2007.

Terry Ryall, **v** Chief executive, said:

“We want our grants to have impact across a wide range of organisations so, based on our experience to date, we need to fill some gaps. It is really important that volunteering opportunities are created for young people in all walks of life and situations so we look forward to hearing from organisations that can deliver programmes in these areas.”

**v** launched its first grants round on 8 May 2006, which has so far resulted in the commissioning of over 42,000 volunteering opportunities, involving more than 100 different organisations in the voluntary sector.

Ends

For further information about **v**, please contact:

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## Notes to Editors

- v is the new youth volunteering charity launched in May 2006 whose mission is to inspire a million more young volunteers in England aged 16-25.
- The charity was set up to implement the recommendations of the Russell Commission outlining a new national framework for youth action and engagement, following a nationwide consultation which included 6000 young people.
- v is led by the cares, interests, passions and beliefs of young people. An advisory board made up of twenty young people called v20 is involved in all aspects of the charity's work. Four members of v20 sit on v's Board of Trustees.
- v works with and builds upon the current voluntary sector infrastructure, funds the creation of volunteering opportunities through grants rounds and implements programmes to create awareness and positive understanding of volunteering for young people.
- v has been formed as an independent charity using an innovative new model which allows funds raised from the private sector to be matched by the Government. Up to £50 million has been allocated by the Government for this purpose over the next three years.