

08/2007

Monday 26 March 2007

12,000 new volunteering opportunities for marginalised young people

Over 12,000 new volunteering opportunities for young people have been announced today by v, the independent charity set up to inspire 16-25 year olds in England to volunteer. These new opportunities will particularly target young people who are currently under-represented in volunteering, including those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds.

The opportunities have been created by v funding 18 organisations running projects encouraging young people, in target groups, to volunteer. Projects encompass a range of activities including encouraging young people from BAME groups to volunteer in sport, to providing a voice for young people with disabilities allowing them to influence their local community and services. v's analysis of its previous round of grants funding in 2006 showed certain gaps, so this funding was targeted at organisations specifically working in these gaps, which include the arts sector, involving young people in campaigning and encouraging young people who are current or ex-offenders to volunteer.

Commenting on these projects, v's Chief Executive Terry Ryall said: "The response to our latest grant activity has been tremendous, and we have been able to stimulate the creation of exciting new opportunities which completely align with our objectives to increase not only the quantity but also the quality and diversity of volunteering for young people."

The successful organisations are located throughout England, and offer a mix of short-term, part-time and full-time volunteering opportunities to provide the broadest appeal and choice for young people.

An additional 4,000 opportunities have also been commissioned through the extension of funding for short-term opportunity projects that first received funding in 2006 and have proven successful. This takes the total number of new opportunities announced today to 16,000.

ENDS

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Notes to Editors

Organisations receiving new grants in 2007

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Nature of Project</u>	<u>Based</u>
National Youth Theatre Of Great Britain	Arts	All Regions
The Academy Trust Limited	Arts	Eastern
Tyneside Film Theatre Trust	Arts	NE
Naz Project London	Working with young people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups	London
Sporting Equals	Working with young people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups, sports	London, NW, West Mids, Yorkshire
Consortium of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Voluntary and Community Organisations	Campaigning	London
Crisis UK	Campaigning	London, NE
People & Planet	Campaigning	London, SE, Yorkshire
School Councils UK in Partnership with Phoenix Education Trust (ESSA)	Campaigning	All Regions
UK Youth Parliament	Campaigning	All Regions
Speaking up	Working with disabled young people	Eastern
The Movement for Non-mobile Children (Whizz Kids)	Working with disabled young people	NE, WM, London
RNID	Working with disabled young people, campaigning	London, West Mids, NW, SW
Timebank: Digital Mentoring Project	Inter-generational	NW
London Action Trust	Working with young offenders	London
Young Potential (East Midlands) Ltd	Working with young offenders	East Mids
Youth Sport Trust	Sports	All Regions
The College Of Chinese Physical Culture	Sports/Arts	West Yorkshire, Tyneside, East Mids, North West & London

Organisations receiving grant extensions from 2006 short term opportunities round.

Organisation	Location
Bolton Lads and Girls	North West
BTCV	South West
Cornwall Film Festival	West
Devon Youth Association	West
Diverse	Cambs
Fairbridge	London
Focus	East Mids
Groundwork Hertfordshire	Herts
Groundwork West London	London
IP1	East
MaD	South East
North Warwickshire CVS	Warks
One World Foundation	London
Ryburn Valley High School	Yorks
SCAN	Newcastle
Second Wave	London
Sefton CVS	North West
Southend Association of Voluntary Service	Essex
SOVA	Sheffield
Sport Northumbria Foundation	North East
Staffordshire Moorlands CVS	Staffs
The IVY Project	Exeter
Vital Regeneration	London
VSU Youth in Action	Kent
YCTV	London
Youth Federation	North East

- **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. A Youth 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. For more information on **v**, please visit www.wearev.com
- **v** has created a web-based portal designed by young people to provide a unique environment for them to find out about volunteering and search for volunteering opportunities in their area. For more information, please visit www.vinspired.com