



## **New Board announced for NCS Trust ahead of transition to Royal Charter body**

- *New Board will take up roles, alongside new Chair, Brett Wigdortz OBE, on 1 December 2018*

Following a competitive selection process by Brett Wigdortz OBE and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), the Privy Council has [announced the new Board for NCS Trust](#). The new Board will work alongside new Chair, Brett Wigdortz to support the Trust as it transitions to a Royal Charter body and grows its offering for young people across the country.

National Citizen Service (NCS) is the country's fastest growing youth movement for over a century. The programme has brought together nearly half a million young people to create friendships across social divides, develop important skills for life and work, and build stronger communities through the power of social action.

NCS Trust, which oversees the national delivery of the programme, is becoming a Royal Charter body in recognition of the vital role it plays in supporting young people and helping to create a more cohesive, mobile and engaged society. The transition will confirm its permanence to ensure the benefits of the programme are available for future generations, deepen the level of accountability NCS has for the funding it receives and protect its independence and sovereignty.

The Board members bring together a wide range of experience from across sectors and will oversee the delivery of NCS's future objectives which include expanding its reach, delivering more impact and improving value for money.

In addition to Brett Wigdortz OBE and NCS CEO Michael Lynas, the 10 Board members are:

- **Lord McNicol of West Kilbride**, Former General Secretary to the Labour Party
- **Tristram Mayhew**, Founder, Chief Gorilla and Chairman of Go Ape
- **Ndidi Okezie**, Digital and Customer Voice Strategy, Pearson PLC
- **Dame Sally Coates**, NCS Trust Patron and Director of Academies United Learning
- **Dame Julia Cleverdon DCVO CBE**, Co-founder and Trustee Step Up To Serve and #iwill campaign, Chair National Literacy Trust and Trustee Careers and Enterprise Company
- **Ashley Summerfield**, Global Leader, Board Consulting Practice, Egon Zehnder
- **Paul Cleal**, Non-Executive Director and advisor to organisations including Vice-Chair at Kingston University
- **John Maltby**, NCS Trust Non-Executive Director and Chairman of Good Energy Group PLC
- **Ian Livingstone CBE**, Co-founder of Games Workshop and Non-Executive Director of Sumo Group PLC
- **Flick Drummond**, Former Member of Parliament for the Portsmouth South constituency

Brett Wigdortz OBE, Founder of Teach First and CEO of tiney.co, was announced as the new Chair of NCS Trust in July 2018. He will take up the role, alongside the new Board, when NCS Trust becomes a Royal Charter body on 1 December 2018.

**Brett Wigdortz, OBE, Chair of NCS Trust, said:** *"It is a hugely exciting time in NCS's history, and we are privileged to have a new Board that combines such a strong mix of skills and experiences to help guide us. All members of the new Board have a passion for supporting*



*young people, and their expertise and talents will help us ensure that NCS is a rite of passage for as many young people as possible. We want to further embed NCS as a national institution and becoming a Royal Charter body is a crucial step on this journey."*

As part of NCS's commitment to reach even more young people and deliver greater value, the organisation recently announced an ambitious recommissioning exercise to select partners to deliver the programme. The aim is to bring NCS closer to local communities and frontline organisations. As part of this, NCS will roll out a new direct model of delivery from 2020 in three regions across the country.

**Michael Lynas, CEO of NCS Trust, said:** *"NCS has achieved so much already, helping inspire and empower almost 500,000 young people. I am immensely grateful to the outgoing Board for their fantastic contribution. I look forward to working with the appointees to inspire future generations of young people to become more active and responsible citizens."*

Last year the National Citizen Service Act 2017 came into place with cross-party backing, making provisions for NCS Trust to move from a Community Interest Company (CIC) to a Royal Charter body.

Independent evaluations have consistently demonstrated the significant impacts that NCS delivers to both participants and society. Those who take part feel more confident in their future life chances and opportunities, agreeing that they have the skills and experience needed to get a job.<sup>1</sup> For the most disadvantaged young people, NCS has been shown to increase university admission by nearly 50 percent.<sup>2</sup> A separate recent academic analysis found that NCS can be particularly effective for building social integration among young people and communities where social integration is weakest.<sup>3</sup>

**End**

## **Contact**

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## **About NCS**

NCS is a government backed programme established in 2011 to help build a more cohesive, mobile and engaged society. By bringing together young people from different backgrounds for a unique shared experience, NCS helps them to become better individuals, and in turn better citizens.

NCS is open to 16 and 17 year-olds across England and Northern Ireland. The two to four week programme, which takes place in school holidays, includes outdoor team-building exercises, a residential for participants to learn 'life skills', a community-based social action project and an end of programme celebration event.

To date:

- Almost 500,000 young people have taken part to date
- Nearly twelve million hours of community action have been completed

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ncsyes.co.uk/sites/default/files/NCS 2016 EvaluationReport\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.ncsyes.co.uk/sites/default/files/NCS%202016%20EvaluationReport_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ncsyes.co.uk/sites/default/files/NCS%20Wellbeing%20and%20Human%20Capital%20Valuation%20-%20Jump.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://csi.nuff.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/JLaurence-Meeting-Mixing-Mending-v2.pdf>



- For every £1 spent, NCS's 2016 summer programme delivered between £1.15 and £2.42 of benefits back to society

It costs participants just £50 or less to take part in NCS and bursaries are available on a case by case basis. Support is provided for young people with additional needs.

To find out more visit [NCSyes.co.uk](http://NCSyes.co.uk).