**BRETT WIGDORTZ ANNOUNCED AS NEW CHAIR OF NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE TRUST, ROYAL CHARTER BODY**

Following a selection process led by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), the Privy Council has today announced the appointment of Brett Wigdortz OBE as new Chair Designate of National Citizen Service (NCS) Trust. Wigdortz will help lead the Trust as it becomes a Royal Charter body and continues to grow its offer to young people.

NCS is the country’s flagship extracurricular programme for 16 and 17 year olds. This year, NCS will support more than 100,000 teenagers to mix with others from different backgrounds, develop important skills for life and work, and make a difference in their community.

Wigdortz joins as the Founder and former CEO of Teach First, the education and social mobility charity, which trains top graduates and career changers to teach in schools and be part of a long-term leadership movement focused on addressing educational disadvantage in low-income communities across England and Wales. Since founding the charity in 2003, he has helped to place more than 10,000 teachers in schools, reaching over a million young people. He also co-founded Teach For All and has helped bring this programme to over 45 countries around the world. Under his leadership, Teach First grew to become the largest graduate recruiter in the country.

Wigdortz brings with him over 15 years of experience working in the education and youth sector and last year was named in Debrett’s list of the most influential people in education. His latest venture is as co-founder & CEO of a digital start-up - [tiney.co](http://tiney.co/), a B-corp focused on helping every child care provider maximise the potential of every child in their care.

**Brett Wigdortz, OBE, said:** *“I am privileged to be joining NCS, particularly at such an exciting and important time in the organisation’s journey. Since its inception NCS has played a pivotal role in helping to transform the lives of hundreds of thousands of young people, by helping to open their eyes to new opportunities and experiences available to them. I look forward to the challenge of helping lead the organisation as it continues to empower thousands of young people across the country.”*

He has been appointed as Chair of NCS Trust for a three year term.

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 to a Royal Charter body. Wigdortz is the Chair Designate until the new Board is fully formed later in the year, and will then Chair the Royal Charter Body, which is expected to be operational by the end of 2018.

Current NCS Chair Stephen Greene, who has been in the role since 2012, will serve for a transition period until the new Chair and Board are in place for the Royal Charter Body.

**Michael ​Lynas, CEO of NCS Trust, said:** "*We are delighted to welcome Brett Wigdortz as the new Chair of NCS Trust. At Teach First, Brett has helped to transform the life chances of a generation of young people from the poorest backgrounds by working with schools. NCS provides a perfect opportunity to continue this mission of helping young people to fulfil their potential, working outside the school gates. We look forward to learning from Brett’s extensive experience as NCS becomes a new Royal Charter body dedicated to the next generation."*

Over 400,000 young people have now taken part in NCS. Over several years, independent evaluations have demonstrated the positive impacts the programme delivers to both its participants and the communities where they live.

Analysis by DCMS, published at the end of last year, found that NCS positively impacts young people’s confidence and helps them feel able to influence the world around them.[1] A separate recent academic analysis found that NCS participants reported an increase in warmth towards people from different ethnic groups, and more positive perceptions of cohesion in their communities.[2]

**Stephen Greene, outgoing Chair of NCS Trust, said:** “*It has been a great privilege to serve as Chair as this role has given me a front row seat to the passion and tenacity of our Nation’s young people, many of them overcoming great obstacles and challenges in their path. This vantage point makes me incredibly optimistic about the future - we have so much talent that just needs a little respect, some tools and opportunity to really blossom. NCS provides all of that that and more! The transition of NCS to a Royal Charter body represents a significant new period in the evolution of NCS and I have no doubt that Brett will have every success in taking NCS on to the next stage in its history. The programme is in good hands.”*

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**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
* Twelve million hours of community action have been completed
* For every £1 spent, NCS’ 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/).

**About NCS Trust**

National Citizen Service Trust is a not-for-profit organisation incorporated by Royal Charter and established to shape, support, champion and lead a thriving National Citizen Service.

National Citizen Service Trust is registered in England and Wales with Royal Charter Body number RC000894. Our registered office is at The Pembroke Building, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road, London, W14 8DG.

[1] http://www.ncsyes.co.uk/sites/default/files/NCS 2016 EvaluationReport\_FINAL.pdf

[2] http://csi.nuff.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/JLaurence-Meeting-Mixing-Mending-v2.pdf