

partnership with the Scouts Association. Over 300 local organisations form the NCS local delivery network, many of which are local voluntary sector organisations.

Recommendation 25: The National Citizen Service should continue to work with other youth organisations to establish benchmarks for effectiveness to support evaluation across the sector. (Paragraph 203)

DCMS will investigate how the data collected from the various evaluations across the Youth Investment Fund and the #iwill Fund and NCS can lead to the development of comparable benchmarks.

Furthermore DCMS commissioned an independent cost benchmarking report on NCS which is publicly available on the Public Accounts Committee website.

Recommendation 26: The Government should encourage and facilitate the National Citizen Service in making greater connections with schools, and should ensure that it is integrated with citizenship education provision. This should include encouraging NCS coordinators in schools to engage with citizenship courses and be given the Continuing Professional Development they need in order to do so. (Paragraph 209)

In 2017 DCMS worked with the Department for Education and NCS Trust to publish non-statutory guidance on NCS for schools and colleges with the aim of improving joint working at the local level between NCS providers and schools and colleges. Government will continue to encourage and facilitate these connections, including considering the role of citizenship education and NCS school coordinators.

Civil Society

Recommendation 27: The Office for Civil Society should publicise the guidance on nominating outstanding volunteers for honours. (Paragraph 219)

Guidance on nominating an individual for a national honour is readily available and can be found on GOV.UK³. Furthermore, the Honours team in DCMS is able to provide advice and guidance to members of the public on all aspects of the honours process - including how to make a nomination, either for an individual or in the case of groups awards via the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS). Information on how to nominate a group is available on the QAVS website⁴. We will keep our communications about honours under review.

Recommendation 28: The Main Honours Committee should give particular attention to the recommendations for honours for volunteers made by the honours committee for Community, Voluntary and Local Services. (Paragraph 220)

The Prime Minister has affirmed that honours should be awarded on merit and asked that independent honours committees give particular focus to nominees who give

³ <https://www.gov.uk/honours>

⁴ <https://qavs.direct.gov.uk/>