



Department
for Education



National Citizen Service

Guidance for Schools and Colleges

November 2017

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Summary

This publication provides non-statutory guidance from the Department for Education. It has been produced to help school and college leaders to embed NCS within a school or college to maximise the proven impact it can have on students.

Expiry or review date

This guidance will be reviewed before October 2018.

Who is this publication for?

This guidance is for:

- School leaders, school staff and governing bodies in all maintained schools, academies, free schools, alternative provision academies, sixth form colleges, independent schools and pupil referral units in England.
- Special recommendations for colleges can be found in Annex A.

Main points

This document sets out seven key actions for schools and colleges to take which can help pupils get involved in NCS. This guidance covers each recommendation in more detail, and offers case studies and reflections from schools to illustrate how each of these actions can increase NCS take up.

Executive Summary

[National Citizen Service](#) (NCS) is a part-residential youth programme taking place out of term time, which develops the skills and confidence of young people. NCS is founded on the three key principles of social cohesion, social engagement and social mobility.

NCS is something that every young person should have the chance to do, regardless of circumstances or any additional needs they may have. That is why the government is asking schools and colleges across the country to help more young people sign up for this life-changing experience.

A network of over 300 regional delivers NCS and local partners, most of whom are from the public or voluntary sector. NCS providers will be available to work with you to deliver the activities and materials that will best suit your cohort.

This document details the following key actions, which can help get your students involved with NCS:

1. **Assign an NCS lead** – identify a teacher to lead on promoting NCS and liaising with your NCS provider.
2. **Get to know your NCS provider** – email education@ncstrust.co.uk to inform the NCS Trust who your NCS lead is, and to be put in touch with your local delivery partner.
3. **Arrange NCS provider visits to your school or college** – NCS providers can provide information about NCS through assemblies, NCS-led tutorials, lunchtime sessions, sixth-form taster days, parents' evenings and careers events.
4. **Embed NCS in your citizenship or PSHE education** – NCS is a practical way of encouraging citizenship, and complements your citizenship and PSHE education.
5. **Promote NCS to your students and their parents/guardians** – NCS will provide materials such as posters, newsletters etc. to make this easy for you.
6. **Dedicate time to encouraging NCS sign ups** – facilitate an opportunity for students to sign up to a place on NCS after an assembly or during tutor time.
7. **Become an NCS champion school or college** – schools and colleges that embrace NCS into their ethos and make it the norm for their students will be recognised with NCS Champion School or College status.

This guidance document covers each of these recommendations in full.

Specific recommendations for colleges can be found in Annex A.

For more information, please email education@ncstrust.co.uk.

Introduction

“NCS changed my life from the moment I got on the bus. It gave me the opportunity to recognise who I really was. I no longer doubt myself or what I’m capable of.”

Keely, NCS graduate, Telford

What is NCS?

[National Citizen Service](#) (NCS) is a youth programme, which takes place out of term time and is available to all 15-17 year olds in England¹.

NCS is founded on three key principles:

- **Social cohesion:** bringing our country together by building stronger communities and fostering understanding between young people of all backgrounds.
- **Social mobility:** building essential skills for life and work, investing in our country’s future talent
- **Civic engagement:** engaging young people in social action in their communities and the democratic process, building their understanding of their role as citizens.

Young people work in diverse teams, take part in outdoor adventure activities, learn life skills and contribute to their community. So far, over 375,000 teenagers have taken part from schools and colleges across the country, including maintained schools, academies, Pupil Referral Units, special schools and independent schools.

NCS summer programmes typically last for four weeks, two of which are delivered on a residential basis. Autumn and spring programme delivery employs a shorter version of NCS.

The NCS Trust is responsible for the delivery of NCS. Local knowledge is integral to the success of the programme: the NCS ecosystem includes over 300 organisations, mainly from the public and voluntary sectors.

NCS is a life-opportunity that can complement existing extra-curricular provision; for example the many youth social action opportunities created under Step Up to Serve's #iwill campaign. Schools can help to create a social action journey for young people, pre- and post-NCS that helps to build a habit for life. Young people are encouraged to

¹ Age eligibility differs by NCS season. Young people aged 16 or 17 on 31 August can take part in that year’s summer or autumn programmes (with the proviso that they do not turn 18 during any residential component of the autumn programme).

reference their NCS experience on their CVs. For a full breakdown of the activities NCS involves, see Annex B. Effective safeguarding is paramount on NCS – for a fuller picture, see Annex D.

“NCS offers young people fantastic opportunities to challenge themselves, explore new horizons, meet people from all walks of life and in the process gain new and transferable skills, maturity and confidence. ASCL highly recommends all school and college leaders embrace the chance for their students to get involved.”

Anna Cole, Parliamentary Specialist, Association of School and College Leaders

What are the benefits to schools and young people?

NCS is recognised by UCAS and provides practical skills for employment and life

- Consecutive, independent evaluations have demonstrated the positive impacts NCS delivers to both its participants and the communities where they live.²
- NCS gives young people a chance to develop the skills crucial in today’s competitive job market, such as leadership, team building and problem solving.
- 7 in 10 NCS graduates feel more confident about getting a job as a result of NCS.³
- UCAS recognises NCS as something that students can include in their personal statement when applying to university.
- NCS gives young people a taste of living away from home and can support young people with their transition into work or further education.
- NCS programmes have an impact on at least two of the four ONS wellbeing measures, improving life satisfaction and having a positive impact on feelings of anxiety.

² The NCS Trust has commissioned a report on the value for money of the programme that also looks at the impact of NCS participation on admission to university. For more detail, please see [Jump Simetrica A value for money assessment of NCS: Wellbeing and human capital](#)

³ [Ipsos Mori Social Research Institute independent evaluation report, NCS, 2015](#)

NCS encourages engaged citizenship

- NCS can support your school's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural studies, and your efforts to promote fundamental British values.
- NCS is a practical way of encouraging citizenship, and complements your citizenship education. The Association for Citizenship Teachers produced [citizenship curriculum materials](#) in partnership with the NCS Trust to provide high quality, innovative citizenship teaching.
- NCS graduates give back an average of up to seven hours more than non-participants to their communities each month, building community capacity to address the issues that matter locally. Many NCS graduates go on to take up other opportunities for young people in their area.⁴

NCS is inclusive

- NCS aims to be for young people of all backgrounds and circumstances.
- NCS is available to young people with additional needs – whether they are disabled, have Special Educational Needs, are financially disadvantaged, are young carers, are Looked After Children, speak English as an Additional Language, have been excluded from mainstream education, have a history of offending or require support to manage their behaviour.⁵
- NCS brings young people together from all walks of life. 8 in 10 teenagers finished NCS feeling more positive about people from different backgrounds.⁶
- NCS attracts a greater percentage of young people eligible for Free School Meals and those from BAME backgrounds relative to the proportion of young people from those groups in the general population.⁷ Independent evaluation demonstrates that many of the positive impacts accrue even more strongly for more young people who are eligible for Free School Meals.⁸

⁴ 4 hours per month per 2015 evaluation [Ipsos Mori Social Research Institute independent evaluation report, NCS, 2015](#). 6.9 hours per month per 2013 "One Year On" Evaluation [Ipsos Mori Social Research Institute independent report, NCS 2013 evaluation one year on](#)

⁵ Additional support needs of participants may be assessed in advance of signing up to the programme. Your local provider can advise on support arrangements in your area.

⁶ [Ipsos Mori Social Research Institute independent evaluation report, NCS, 2015](#)

⁷ <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/National-Citizen-Service.pdf>

⁸ [Ipsos Mori Social Research Institute independent evaluation report, NCS, 2015](#)

No cost to schools

- There is no financial cost to schools that get involved with NCS.
- The programme is backed by the government, so participants never pay more than £50 to take part. Financial support is available for those unable to meet the cost.
- NCS 2016 participation data shows 17% of NCS participants were eligible for Free School Meals compared to 8% of the general population.

“Academic achievement is important but so is the opportunity for young people to gain a range of experiences and develop the soft skills which will be so important to them if they are to live happy and fulfilling lives.

National Citizen Service is a really good programme and helps schools to provide a good all round education.”

Jane English, CEO, Bay Education Trust, and Former Principal, Paignton Community and Sports Academy

How can your school get involved with NCS?

NCS is something that every year 11 and year 12 student should have the chance to do. It is a great addition to any out of school activities that your school or college may already organise. You can check how many students from your school or college took part in the last academic year on the NCS website - <http://www.ncsyes.co.uk/ncs-in-your-school>

The following recommendations are not designed to be exhaustive, but provide a list of different actions that schools can take to ensure their students hear about NCS, and have the chance to take up their place.

Your NCS provider will always be ready to work with you to deliver the activities and materials that are most suited to your cohort and to answer any questions that your students and their parents/guardians may have.

"I would urge Head Teachers of schools and colleges to ensure they are working with NCS and together we can help prepare and develop young people for the future."

Brian Lightman, former General Secretary, Association of School and College Leaders

1 Assign an NCS teacher representative

- 1.1 We encourage schools and colleges to identify an individual to be responsible for promoting NCS within the institution. It is up to schools and colleges to identify the most appropriate person, and we suggest the Head of Year 11, the PSHE lead or Citizenship lead in a school or the Head of Study Programme in a college.
- 1.2 The member of staff leading NCS may also be responsible for promoting other social action opportunities to students.
- 1.3 Ideally, the NCS lead should be the main point of contact with your NCS provider, to arrange any NCS events within the school, answer students' questions about NCS and encourage sign ups.
- 1.4 The NCS lead can also seek support from the NCS responsible officer in the local authority.
- 1.5 The NCS lead can use this document as a guide for maximising the impact of NCS in your school or college.

“When I first heard about NCS, I couldn’t believe what was on offer – it is a brilliant opportunity for students.

But, when the Head of Sixth Form asked me to take on promoting NCS in our school, I was worried about the amount of work – thinking I would need to accompany the students, do risk assessments and so on.

But when I met with my NCS provider I realised that the provider handles everything – they made it so easy for me. That has been a big part of the success. For example, even sending a letter out to parents – our provider gave us a template; all I had to do was send it!

Now we’re in a position where we’ve been given the accolade of NCS Champion School status. The positive publicity was great, but what’s really rewarding for us is seeing the students get this opportunity. Having a certificate signed by Prime Minister, and the skills and confidence they learn on NCS will set them apart.”

Gareth Wicks, Sixth Form Programme Director, Tendring Technology College Academy

2 Get to know your NCS provider

- 2.1 Your NCS provider will contact the school or college and ask who has responsibility for NCS. To let NCS know as soon as possible who the responsible teacher is in your school, please [fill out this short web form](#) or contact education@ncstrust.co.uk.
- 2.2 The teacher with responsibility for NCS can liaise with the NCS provider who will provide full support to arrange NCS-related activities in the school or college.

“The ethos behind NCS complements the ethos and values of our school perfectly. It encourages and enables all students, regardless of their background or socio-economic status, to become actively involved in voluntary and charity work.”

Neil Enright, Queen Elizabeth School for Boys, Barnet

3 Arrange NCS provider visits to your school or college

- 3.1 NCS providers use visits to schools and colleges as an opportunity to inspire and enthuse students about taking part in NCS.
- 3.2 NCS providers can offer guided assemblies led by NCS provider staff for year 11 and year 12 students. NCS providers will contact the teacher with responsibility for NCS to arrange a suitable time.
- 3.3 Schools and colleges may also wish to invite their NCS provider to other forums such as NCS-led tutorials, lunchtime sessions, information stands at careers and fresher's fairs, and sixth-form taster days.
- 3.4 NCS providers offer an NCS presence at parents' evenings with question and answer sessions.
- 3.5 NCS providers would be happy to visit the school or college and deliver a short session on NCS to all staff at your existing staff meeting, to raise awareness of the programme and its benefits.

4 Embed NCS in your citizenship and PSHE education

- 4.1 NCS is a practical way of encouraging citizenship, and complements existing citizenship education. The Association for Citizenship Teaching citizenship curriculum materials (produced in partnership with the NCS Trust) can be accessed [here](#).
- 4.2 Many schools are demonstrating how NCS links to Citizenship and PSHE curricula, and schools' efforts to promote British values. Some schools invite their NCS provider to support with delivery of sessions at Key Stage 4.
- 4.3 There are lots of creative ways to bring NCS into your school setting and citizenship ethos. NCS providers will be happy to work with you to deliver bespoke arrangements that are suitable for your school environment. For example, some schools already invite NCS providers to deliver 'NCS taster sessions' to students, as part of a PSHE or Citizenship collapsed timetable day.
- 4.4 To arrange for your NCS provider to visit your school and provide any of the activities described, please contact your provider directly or email education@ncstrust.co.uk.

"The NCS staff have been wonderful towards our students. I really appreciate the way they have come into school to deliver the NCS assemblies and for popping in at lunchtime with information stands. This has enabled any of our students who have queries or feeling a bit nervous, to have a chat to get them prepared for the summer programme.

NCS prepares our students for their next journey into college and university, but also allows them to experience all the fantastic activities that NCS offers – feedback from the students has been amazing."

Anjum Raza, The Hathershaw College, Stockport

5 Promote NCS to your students and their parents/guardians

- 5.1 Schools and colleges are important channels for students and parents to hear about a range of national and local opportunities for students to get involved with.
- 5.2 NCS endeavours to make it as easy as possible for schools and colleges to promote this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to your students and their parents. NCS can provide:
- Awareness-raising emails or letters for parents;
 - Content for school newsletters;
 - Content on NCS for the school website and social media (including links to the [NCS website](#));
 - Posters/banners to display around the school;
 - Content to add to existing social action and citizenship promotion around the school;
 - Presentations from NCS graduates who can talk about their experiences on the programme.
- 5.3 Your NCS provider will be happy to provide these materials. You can request materials directly from your local provider or by [using this short web form](#) or contacting education@ncstrust.co.uk.

“We are a small, supportive unit offering a different kind of learning to year 11 students who have become disengaged with their mainstream education.

Part of my role is around transition, and since we are aware that most of our students are at risk of becoming NEET, we work to provide every opportunity that might support our students to stay engaged. I can see that NCS makes a big difference.

NCS has given my students a sense of belonging, a sense of self-worth. I think it's because NCS helped them discover what they're capable of. They tell me it's brilliant and they are so glad they've done it. They have made friendships that would never have made otherwise.

My students graduate from NCS feeling valued, feeling that they are a part of society and with a belief that they can contribute to their local community. I would recommend NCS for every kind of school.”

Debbie Mansfield, Learning Coordinator, The Connected Hub, Brighton

6 Dedicate time to encouraging NCS sign ups

- 6.1 Following an NCS provider visit, teachers may facilitate an opportunity for students to sign up to a place on NCS.
- 6.2 Young people with additional needs may particularly benefit from taking part in NCS. Schools may wish to ensure they are promoting NCS to these young people, and provide suitable opportunities for them to sign up. For any questions or additional information, please contact your local provider or email education@ncstrust.co.uk.
- 6.3 Students can sign up through the NCS website or the paper forms left by your NCS provider. For example, teachers might allocate time to sign up during tutorials, Citizenship lessons or during a year 11 assembly.

“I think NCS is exactly the sort of thing that will help an individual mark him or herself out from the crowd. It is so much responsibility that is given to those young people and that’s exactly the distinguishing point that universities and colleges are looking for.”

Dr Joe Spence, The Master, Dulwich College

7 Become an NCS champion school or college

- 7.1 An increasing number of schools and colleges are taking NCS to the next level by becoming an NCS Champion school or college. A Champion school or college embraces NCS into their ethos by making taking part the norm for either all of their students who are able to take part.
- 7.2 Champion schools and colleges do not mandate but strongly encourage 100% student participation in NCS by taking a strong role in promoting NCS to pupils, parents and teachers. Where possible they may build NCS into the curriculum and host warm-up sessions in enrichment or citizenship lessons.
- 7.3 As NCS participation grows, so the recognition of schools and colleges joining the Champion programme increases. A school/college receives a personalised plaque for each year that it is rewarded with Champion status and celebration events are held to thank Head Teachers for their involvement. From 2017 onwards there will be regional celebrations of Champion Schools.
- 7.4 To find out more and register your school's interest in the programme email education@ncstrust.co.uk.

“Our academy group of schools saw the potential of NCS for our youngsters at an early stage. The personal and social development opportunities combined with the outstanding value for families encouraged us to advocate it ever since.

Our ambition is to see every pupil complete NCS. We see the programme as an important part of our educational package and a significant milestone in pupils' journey. We believe the experience supports students' transition into college and helps them meet the demands of Key Stage 5 study.

I was humbled to observe the social action that some of our pupils completed on NCS. One project involved students renovating the garden of a care home for people with learning disabilities. They did an astounding job, and raised all the funds to do it as well. This happened right within our community, a mile away from school, enabling local people to see the social impact pupils had made. It was a truly inspiring experience.”

Mark Tinsley, Associate School Leader, TORCH Academy Gateway Trust

Guidance for local authorities on NCS

This guidance document can be used in parallel with the [local authority guidance on NCS](#).

“I believe in "all round education" and so NCS is fantastic – I wish I could have done something like this when I was at school!”

Jackie Abbott, Dixons City Academy, Bradford

Annex A: Advice for colleges

"We have found that embedding of NCS as a core part of our GREAT Ambitions study programme has been a highly effective way of supporting our students develop their confidence and aspirations for their future.

Taking part in a social action project on NCS and working directly with local communities has really engaged our students and raised the profile of the pride and hard work our students hold in their local community.

We see NCS as an investment in our student's engagement with their education – they graduate more motivated to learn."

Fiona Morey, Deputy Principal for Learning and Quality, Aylesbury College

Why promote NCS in your college?

NCS offers a two week autumn programme which is primarily aimed at 16 and 17 year old students. The Autumn NCS programme can benefit your college in a variety of ways:

- **Learner enrichment:** NCS contributes to the study programme philosophy and the outcomes of NCS tie in very closely with non qualification activities as outlined in the 16-19 programme of study guidance.⁹
- **Skill development:** An Autumn NCS programme can help your 16 and 17 year old students build their team working skills and confidence as they enter their new environment.
- **Employability:** NCS can support the employability and work experience areas of your study programme. NCS promotes skill development and provides experiences which young people can use when discussing their competencies on CVs and at interviews.
- **Learner progression:** NCS graduates are being increasingly recognised by national employers as being 'work ready' with links to employers offering fast track opportunities to NCS graduates. Data from UCAS Strobe has also shown that NCS participants are more likely to be accepted to university.
- **Learner retention:** The NCS Autumn programme can help to motivate learners who may be at risk of dropping off registers before the census date in October.

⁹ DfE 16-19 programme of study guidance published July 2017

How to promote NCS to your students

All of the recommendations in the main part of the guidance apply to colleges. However, some may be adapted to suit the further education environment. There are also some additional steps colleges can take to ensure that their pupils are aware of NCS. These include:

- Invite an NCS provider to raise awareness at your college welcome evenings or fresher's fairs for prospective students and parents.
- Invite your provider to talk to students during tutorial time and/or lunch time.
- Talk about NCS to prospective students during interviews.
- Assign your Senior Lead for the Study Programme (or equivalent) as the senior leader responsible for NCS.

NCS complementing your study programme

Some colleges have chosen to take a more strategic approach with NCS by integrating it into their 16-19 study programme. It should be noted that the latest guidance on the 16-19 programme of study highlight NCS as a complementary programme that may be delivered alongside a study programme.¹⁰ However, at present NCS cannot be counted towards the study programme's planned hours.

Some colleges have adopted the NCS Autumn programme as part of their induction to college for certain cohorts, such as Level 2 students.

Colleges can contact their NCS provider [using this webform](#) or by emailing education@ncstrust.co.uk to discuss the options for making NCS part of your college's approach to learning.

¹⁰ DfE 16-19 programme of study guidance published July 2017

Annex B: Structure of the NCS programme

NCS is a part-residential experience focused around fun and discovery, with 30-60 hours committed to a local community project. Young people work in diverse teams of 12 to 15, building skills for work and life, taking on exciting challenges, making new friends, and contributing to their community.

The programme largely runs outside term time, with most young people taking part in the summer holidays after GCSEs finish.

All NCS programmes have three phases, detailed below.

Phase	Summer	Autumn
Phase 1 - Adventure <i>Outdoor team-building activities</i>	4 nights/5 days residential, >1 hour from participants' homes. Typically at an outdoor residential centre or campsite.	3 nights/4 days residential, >1 hour from participants homes
Phase 2 - Discovery <i>Skills development and community exploration</i>	4 nights/5 days residential, <1 hour from participants' homes. Typically in university-style accommodation, hostels etc.	3 days non-residential
Phase 3 - Action <i>Designing and delivering social action projects</i>	(a) 30 hours over 4/5 days, planning projects in conjunction with beneficiaries (non-residential).	30 hours, full-time or part-time, planning and delivering social action projects (non-residential)
	(b) 30 hours, either full-time or part-time, delivering social action projects (non-residential).	

Celebration events

When NCS participants have completed their social action project, providers organise a celebration event. These events are attended by parents, carers, teachers and other local dignitaries, alongside press and other invited guests. During the events they receive a certificate signed by the Prime Minister.

Next steps

The end of the NCS programme is not the end of the NCS experience. Participants will become part of a network of NCS graduates, giving them access to unique opportunities to stay involved, such as becoming a youth board member, an NCS Leader, or sharing their experiences with NCS graduates of the future. They can also access an online platform which contains a range of training, work experience and voluntary opportunities.

Annex C: the National Citizen Service Act 2017

The National Citizen Service Act (NCS Act) is an Act of Parliament which forms part of a new legal framework for the NCS Trust, the programme's delivery body. The NCS Trust has been incorporated as a public body by a Royal Charter granted by the Queen. The NCS Act ensures parliament has oversight of the Trust and the programme as it continues to grow.

The NCS Act demonstrates the Government's commitment to NCS, and its manifesto commitment to ensure a place on NCS for every young person who wants one. The new legal framework has placed the Trust on a stable footing, helping to secure NCS for the future and ensure it is delivered transparently, efficiently, and effectively.

The Act allows government to provide grant-in-aid funding to the NCS Trust. The Trust works with hundreds of delivery partners, contracting with providers to run the programme. It will be responsible for commissioning these organisations to deliver the core outcomes of NCS.

The Act then requires the NCS Trust to publish a business plan at the beginning of each financial year, and an annual report at the end. These documents will be laid in parliament to ensure the Trust remains accountable for its performance. It will report on value for money, the number of participants, and the extent to which it has secured quality provision of the programme across its network.

The Trust will also publish its annual accounts. The National Audit Office is now the Trust's official auditor, and the Trust must report directly to government any financial difficulties experienced by NCS providers.

The NCS Act also gives Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) the power to send information to young people on behalf of the NCS Trust to promote the programme. Government believes NCS should be a rite of passage for teenagers in this country, and for every person to have the opportunity to take part as they transition into adulthood. Young people will receive a letter telling them about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, the cost of which is almost entirely covered by government.

The NCS Trust, therefore, has been established as the central delivery body for the NCS programme, funded by government. It will promote the programme to young people, parents, carers, schools, local authorities and other public bodies. Government believes that NCS can build social cohesion, improve social mobility, and impact on the social engagement of our young people. The NCS Act puts that ambition in statute, and gives the NCS Trust the foundation on which to deliver the programme across England.

Annex D: Safeguarding on NCS

This annex is designed to give schools an insight into the processes NCS has in place around safeguarding. However, it is not an exhaustive description of all safeguarding procedures. It is the responsibility of each individual school to ensure that they are satisfied with NCS providers' safeguarding procedures on an individual basis just as they would with any visitor to school.

Safeguarding on the NCS programme

- All NCS staff undergo enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly Criminal Records Bureau) checks.
- Pharos Response (the NCS Trust's 24/7 incident response service) undertakes regular pre-programme & in programme health and safety checks of NCS regional providers. This initiative ensures that provider processes and procedures are of the requisite quality (including evidence checking) and that in practice, the actual programme delivery demonstrates the highest standards of health and safety.
- In 2016, NCS Trust commissioned the NSPCC to review all regional NCS provider safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure best practice was being observed and to instil a Safer Recruitment culture.
- The NCS Trust records the DBS status and number of all personnel working with young people on NCS programmes on a secure central database. In addition, Pharos undertakes pre-delivery checks of regional provider on NCS Trust's behalf to ensure that all providers are carrying out DBS checks and keeping up to date records regarding the current status of DBS approvals for all staff.
- All activities are comprehensively risk-assessed and overseen by carefully selected and trained instructors and mentors.
- All direct delivery staff complete mandatory online modules on Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Incident Handling and First Aid. This is supplementary to any online training delivered internally by the various NCS providers.
- An audit checklist tool enables NCS providers to assess and manage extended supply chain safeguarding practices.
- The NCS Trust partners with The Mix (formerly Get Connected & Youth Net) to provide all participants and staff under the age of 25 with a dedicated support helpline. The helpline offers anonymous counselling and advice to all under-25s on NCS programmes to ensure they receive the right level of support and fully enjoy their NCS experience.

Continual safeguarding updating and improvement

- The NCS Trust holds quarterly safeguarding workshops with NCS provider leads to share best practice and discuss changes to programme policy and delivery.
- In 2016, the NCS Trust reviewed and re-developed existing safeguarding policy in conjunction with the NSPCC. All provider safeguarding procedures have been reviewed and amended by NSPCC auditors. The NCS Trust has a working relationship with NSPCC, to continually improve the safety of recruitment and training.
- Safeguarding briefings are mandatory all new NCS Trust staff.



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