

Joint Statement by the National Citizen Service Trust (NCS Trust) Board and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)

June 2025

On 12 November 2024, as part of her oral statement to Parliament that announced the Government's intention to develop a new youth strategy, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport set out her decision to wind down the National Citizen Service (NCS) programme by 31 March 2025, with the NCS Trust to subsequently close.

In response, NCS Trust has acted efficiently to implement the Secretary of State's decision, commencing a structured wind-down, which will conclude in June 2025. The NCS Trust Board, with advice from DCMS and the support of the Secretary of State, has concluded that the most efficient - and therefore value for money - way of delivering this objective is to surrender NCS Trust's Royal Charter. Subject to His Majesty The King's agreement, this will effectively wind-up NCS Trust as a stand-alone organisation, with any residual liabilities transferring to DCMS.

As the Secretary of State said in November, the NCS has played a hugely important role in supporting young people to build their confidence and bridge social divides. This was not a decision taken lightly by the Secretary of State, and recognises the impact it has had on many across the youth sector. Both DCMS and the NCS Trust Board want to again thank each and every staff and Board member past and present, as well as every young person who has contributed to the success of the NCS, especially the many who championed youth voice on its Youth Advisory Board.

Since its launch in 2011, the NCS - in collaboration with key sector partners - has provided almost 1.5 million young people with opportunities. NCS met the needs of many young people and rightly put active citizenship at the heart of the Government's programme for young people. 80% of participants reported enhanced future-ready skills, while 70% noted greater respect for diversity.

The NCS Trust contributed learnings from the NCS programmes, and the NCS Youth Advisory Group shared insights during engagements for the National Youth Strategy development process. We hope it will be fit for the decade ahead and ensure every young person can live the richer, larger life they deserve. Everyone involved in the NCS story since its creation remains firmly committed to that goal and to the young people of this country.