



Youth Community Action
Give time, get involved, gain skills



department for
children, schools and families

What is Youth Community Action?

Youth Community Action is a government initiative designed to encourage all young people in England, aged 14 to 19, to take part in activities that contribute to their communities, as part of their learning and personal development.

The government has set an ambitious goal – for everyone between the ages of 14 and 19 to have the chance to give their time and get involved in community action. Our aspiration is that, over time, all young people will participate in at least 50 hours of community action by the age of 19.

How does it work?

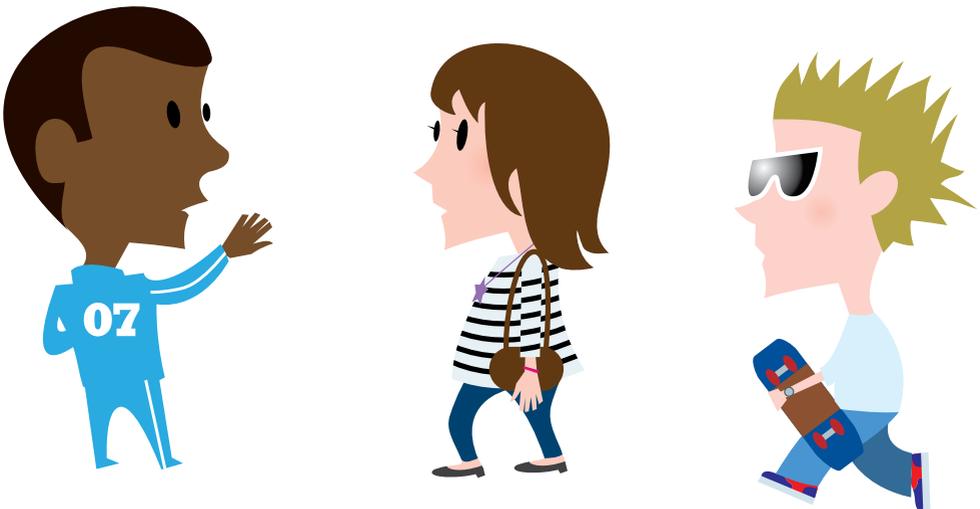
The Department for Children Schools and Families has designed Youth Community Action and is working with **v**, the National Young Volunteers Service and other key partners to deliver the scheme.

There are lots of ways for young people to make a difference – from coaching a sports team to DJing on a community radio station, from campaigning on a local issue to participating in a conservation project.

Youth Community Action for 16 to 19-year-olds

We are testing Youth Community Action among 16 to 19-year-olds by including it as an option in the Entry to Employment (E2E) programme, which will soon become part of Foundation Learning (one of the four learning routes for 14 to 19-year-olds).

We are also looking at how Youth Community Action can contribute to other learning pathways and accreditation schemes for 14 to 19-year-olds – into GCSEs/A levels, the Diploma and Apprenticeships.



Youth Community Action for 14 to 16-year-olds

For 14 to 16-year-olds, Youth Community Action is centred on schools and the curriculum and has a package of support and guidance for schools.

- A team of more than 100 vSchool Advisers will work with schools, providers, Local Authorities and other organisations to create opportunities for young people to give their time and get involved.
- A new secure online facility is available at **vschools.org.uk** for school staff working with 14 to 16-year-olds and for local authorities. This new section of the v website will offer guidance to schools on developing community action and allow them to create profiles for 14 to 16-year-olds and search for opportunities placed by the school, local authorities and other providers.
- Safeguarding guidance will be available on **vschools.org.uk** to help schools to put the right systems in place to protect young people. We are also developing a recognition scheme based on the vfifty award, so that young people get credit for their contribution.

Five pilot projects with 14 to 16-year-olds

DCSF through five local authorities is carrying out intensive pilot projects to explore how we can get all – or at least the vast majority of – 14 to 16-year-olds to take part, including those from hard-to-reach groups.

The five areas are Brighton and Hove, City of York, Lincolnshire, Kent, and Salford. They are testing a range of different approaches both to encourage young people to make a difference in their communities, and also to create sufficient suitable placement opportunities.

The Youth Community Action Experience

Jonathan's story: Making a difference at Hartlepool's indoor market

Youth Community Action at Hartlepool Market involved over 40 E2E learners, who helped to refurbish the town's indoor market. E2E learner, Jonathan Stoddart, who helped with the project won 'student of the campaign' award for his hard work and dedication, working evenings, weekends and even Bank Holidays to get the job done.

The Youth Community Action initiative at Hartlepool College was recently praised by Sir Alan Sugar. Paul Marshall (Head of Business and Workforce Development), said: *"This type of experience is an essential part of provision for these young people"*.

Dave's story – volunteering at Plays Clubs

Dave was disengaged from school and had a very poor attendance record. He worked with mentors at the Portslade Inclusion Project who recommended that he volunteer at the Play Clubs.

Through his involvement with the clubs he was able to work in a supported environment and over a period of time has made a positive contribution and committed member of the play club.

"I began volunteering at PZ1 and found it was really fun. I met lots of new people and found out that I enjoyed working with younger children. I get the satisfaction that I am helping out my community. The volunteering unlocked it all – when I first came to the VC I was afraid to do anything because I was afraid what people thought of me. I now have new friends that accept me as I am and I am part of a great team of people. I help out where I can and hope that I can help children see that everyone has something to give and everyone can be accepted."

What people are saying about Youth Community Action

David Robinson – Chair Stakeholder Advisory Board – Youth Community Action

“Community Action is the lifeblood of many third sector organisations and vital to other caring agencies. Without this support many would not be able to meet the needs of their beneficiaries. Encouraging a caring culture at a young age through the Youth Community Action initiative will sustain the development of this much valued resource for generations to come.”

Terry Ryall, v Chief Executive

“We’re delighted to be working with the DCSF on its new Youth Community Action programme. v will be delivering the 14-16 element, ‘vschools’, which will embed a culture of community action across all secondary schools.

We’re passionate about encouraging lifelong community action and our research and experience shows that young people who have volunteered are more likely to do so again.”

Stephen Johnson – Head teacher Middlecot School Kirton (Lincolnshire)

“I am very excited about the Youth Community Action project and certainly feel it will be of great benefit to the students in our school in preparing them for the future and having a positive involvement in their community.”

Nick Page, Acting Strategic Director of Children’s Services, Salford City Council

“We are delighted to be a pilot area for Youth Community Action. This will enable us to support significant numbers of young people to positively contribute to our communities as well as acknowledging their existing activities. It will be an excellent opportunity for us to celebrate the positive contributions young people make to the well-being of our City.”

Stephanie Baslington, Operations Director, YMCA

“The YMCA warmly supports the launch of this initiative to promote volunteering and community action amongst young people. A great deal of the work we do is about helping young people to realise their own value, and this sort of activity really brings this to the fore. Many of our centres are involved in such work, both as part of the youth community action programme and more widely. So we know from experience what a difference it can make, including when it’s part of a personalised learning programme, such as Foundation Learning. Learners can gain in confidence, skills and often a sense of purpose; and the organisations and groups that they volunteer with, from their enthusiasm, energy and commitment.”

Where can I find out more information?

For further information please visit:

vschools.org.uk

www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/youthcommunityaction

www.teachernet.gov.uk/youthcommunityaction





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