

06/2007

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v issues contracts to Millennium Volunteer providers

v, the independent charity set up to inspire young people to volunteer, has today issued contract offer letters to over 100 Millennium Volunteer (MV) providers, following agreement between v, the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) and the DfES that the charity would assume interim management of the MV programme from April 1 2007.

The offer letters follow a series of communications from the DfES, OTS and v which advised MV providers of further funding for contracts which would otherwise have expired on March 31st 2007. On February 23rd v notified providers that new contracts of nine months would be offered to MV providers this week.

v has worked closely with the OTS and DfES to agree funding for the new contracts, and nine months allows any new National Youth Volunteering Programme to be properly commissioned to begin in January 2008 and will allow time for adequate notice where appropriate.

ENDS

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Notes to Editors

- **v** is the new youth volunteering charity launched in May 2006 whose mission is to inspire a million more young volunteers in England aged 16-25.
- The charity was set up to implement the recommendations of the Russell Commission outlining a new national framework for youth action and engagement, following a nationwide consultation which included 6000 young people.
- **v** is led by the cares, interests, passions and beliefs of young people. A Youth Advisory Board made up of twenty young people called **v20** is involved in all aspects of the charity's work. Four members of **v20** sit on **v**'s Board of Trustees.
- **v** works with and builds upon the current voluntary sector infrastructure, funds the creation of volunteering opportunities through grants rounds and implements programmes to create awareness and positive understanding of volunteering for young people.
- **v** has been formed as an independent charity using an innovative new model which allows funds raised from the private sector to be matched by the Government. Up to £50 million has been allocated by the Government for this purpose over the next three years.
- For more information on **v**, please visit www.wearev.com