

v calls on MPs to volunteer with 16-25s this summer

4 June 2007: To celebrate Volunteers' Week (1-7 June), v, the youth volunteering organisation, supported by T-Mobile, is inviting MPs across England to take part in the v challenge and volunteer alongside young people in their local communities.

16-25 year olds across England are helping out in their communities through vinvolved, England's biggest ever youth action programme which offers thousands of innovative volunteering opportunities, and teams of local experts providing advice and support.

The v challenge encourages MPs to experience some of the ways in which young people are taking action to benefit their local communities. MPs can offer help coaching kids' football, staging music and arts workshops, or urban tree planting, for example.

Terry Ryall, v's Chief Executive, said: "Young people often get a bad press and in a recent survey conducted by v, 70% said that they feel negatively perceived by the public, despite the fact that 44% are actively doing positive things for their community. The v challenge is an opportunity for MPs to see this positive action for themselves and to volunteer alongside young people in their local constituencies."

To mark the success of v challenge and to celebrate the positive contribution that young people are making to their communities through volunteering, there will be a parliamentary reception hosted later in the year by Tom Levitt MP, Chair of the All-Party Group on the Community and Voluntary Sector. Levitt said: "I am delighted that the national youth volunteering organisation v is giving MPs this opportunity to acknowledge some of our unsung heroes - young people who are volunteering and making a positive contribution to society. I hope that my parliamentary colleagues will get behind this exciting initiative and sign up to take the v challenge."

For more information about v, visit www.wearev.com

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Notes to editor:

- The **OnePoll** survey was conducted online in May (2008) including 3,014 respondents aged 16-25 from across the UK
- **v** is the youth volunteering organisation launched in May 2006 whose mission is to inspire a new generation of young volunteers in England aged 16-25. **v** is supported by the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office.
- The registered 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 20 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. For more information on **v**, visit www.wearev.com
- The new **v**involved scheme is funding 107 **v**involved teams of experts, at least 107 Youth Action Teams and 152 community projects run by small and large organisations.