

Press Release
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Full time volunteering scheme to develop hidden talents

A new full-time volunteering scheme to draw out and develop the talents of England's 16-25 year olds will be launched with a pilot in January 2009.

v is seeking partners to deliver this multi-million pound scheme work with including voluntary sector organisations and local authority Children's and Young People's Services.

The scheme, designed and run by v the youth volunteering organisation, will offer 44 week long volunteering placements in the public sector leading to a recognised qualification. On completion, the young people will have access to a £1,500 grant to support their progression into work.

At least half of these opportunities will go to young people who are not in education, employment or training and those from disadvantaged and deprived areas.

Terry Ryall, v's Chief Executive, says: "The full time volunteering pilot scheme will draw out the hidden talents of hundreds of our young people that might otherwise go undiscovered. It gives them the chance to develop skills, confidence and experience to improve their employability while also boosting the public sector with their energy and enthusiasm."

The pilot starting in January 2009 will place 200 volunteers with up to 20 local authorities in England. Research shows that the majority of young people want to work with children so v is initially seeking to place them with Local Children & Young People's Services offering opportunities to volunteer in, for instance, play schemes, Youth and Connexions Services, leisure or sports and work with children with disabilities.

Terry Ryall, CEO of v says: "We will be looking for delivery partners for our new full-time volunteering initiative that will give hundreds more young people, the chance to realise their potential."

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Notes to Editors: Contact Petra Coveney on 020 7960 7016 or Kathy McAllister on 020 7960 7011

- 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.
- 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.
- To find out more about v visit the charity's website www.wearev.com. To find out about volunteering opportunities in your area visit v's portal for young people www.vinspired.com