



**Are you 16-25?
Fed up of not being heard?
Tell us who you really are...**

Voicebox – giving young people a chance to speak their mind

Have you ever carried a knife for your own protection? Shop lifted goods worth more than a fiver or suffered from an eating disorder? Do you think drugs are ok for recreational use? Are you interested in politics? & do you respect your elders? Many people in today's society may think they already know the answers to these questions but what do 16-25 years olds really think?

Are you fed up with not being heard? Are you tired of being labelled? Well, now it's your turn to speak up and let your opinions count with the launch of Voicebox, a new online youth insight project from **v**, the National Young Volunteers Service. www.voicebox.vinspired.com

Voicebox aims to really get to the heart of what 16-25 year olds think and wants you to voice your opinions, concerns and interests to help break down the stereotypes. Today's younger generation are often portrayed in a negative light focusing on the activities of the minority and it's easy for the real voice of youth to get lost.

v, the National Young Volunteers Service hope that data collected from Voicebox will address this by helping to paint an accurate picture of young people in modern society. Working with the think tank Demos, the final results will then be shared with government and policy makers who have the power to make positive change happen.

Voicebox is an anonymous online platform where 16-25 year olds can take part in opinion polls, comment on blogs and provide feedback on a variety of social issues that concern them. Topics that will be addressed over the coming months include:

- Labels and stereotypes
- Values
- Community

If you are 16-25 and want your voice to be heard then visit www.voicebox.vinspired.com

Tarik Fontanelle, Community Manager, Voicebox (Age 19)

'I am working with **v** on the Voicebox campaign as I truly believe it to be important for young people to get their voices heard and not just by a few small groups, but by everyone – people always think that they understand 'the youth' but make extremely generalised statements about what we are up to, how we think

and why they do things. This just creates inaccurate stereotypes and alienates young people. Voicebox is going to get our true, honest opinions in front of people that can and, hopefully, will make a difference.'

- ENDS -

For further information, please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

v, The National Young Volunteers Service aims to inspire a new generation of volunteers (aged 16-25) in England. It does this by funding voluntary organisations all over England to create inspiring, diverse opportunities and by helping to overcome barriers that stop people from taking action to improve lives, communities and the planet. **v's** aim is to create a culture where volunteering comes naturally and where the benefits of volunteering are understood and celebrated.

v is an independent charity launched in May 2006 as a result of the Russell Commission report, A National Framework for Youth Action and Engagement.

Visit: www.vinspired.com for more information on what we do and how we do it.

Voicebox is a online youth insight project, curating young people's views on issues that matter, visualising the findings, and then setting the data free for you to do the same.

Over the coming months, we're going to try to find out how young people spend their time, what they care about and what they really think about the area they live in and much more. The more people that take part, the more detailed picture we will get. Each month, we'll have new themes and you'll be able to see the results by age, gender, location and ethnicity.

Our aim with Voicebox is to better understand young people, so we can deliver programmes more suited to their needs. For that reason, we are only ever going to use data for this age range in the UK, but the project is open to everyone to take part, however old and wherever they live.

Visit: www.voicebox.vinspired.com for your voice to be heard.