

002/2006

July 7th 2006

v fantastic response

The voluntary sector has responded to v's first grants round with fantastic enthusiasm and creativity. Over 600 Expressions of Interest for new part-time and full-time volunteering opportunities were received by v.

Young people from v's youth panel v20 were involved in the shortlisting process which resulted in more than 100 organisations being invited to make full applications.

Over 200 organisations also made Expressions of Interest for hosting Youth Volunteer Development Manager and Youth Volunteer Adviser teams.

Chief Executive Terry Ryall said "We have been delighted with the sector's enthusiasm for our first grants round - the quantity and quality of responses made shortlisting applications a very difficult job. Such a fabulous response only proves the sector is ably equipped to help us inspire a million more young volunteers."

In May, v also announced grants for the creation of short-term opportunities. The deadline for applications has also now passed and the response has been equally positive. Successful bids will be announced later this month.

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For further information please contact:

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Notes to editors:

- v is the new youth volunteering charity which aims to inspire a million more young volunteers aged 16-25. It was set up upon the recommendation of the Russell Commission which outlined a new national framework for youth action and engagement following a nationwide consultation. The charity launched on 8th May 2006.

- The views of young people are central to v's work. An advisory board made up of twenty young people called v20 is involved in all aspects of the charities work. Four members of v20 sit on v's Board of Trustees.
- The Government has allocated £50 million over three years to support the implementation of the Russell Commission's recommendations. The new charity will also have a target of raising £50 million from the private sector. Funding raised from the private sector will be matched on a pound for pound basis by the Exchequer, unlocking potentially an additional £50 million.
- v's first grants round was launched on 8th May 2006.
- Feedback and advice is being provided to organisations that weren't successful in this round. v has offered a free programme of capacity building activities to support organisations to work with young volunteers (called Ready, Steady, Go). In due course good practice resources will also be made available via the wearev website
- Final decisions on successful applications for providing part-time and full-time youth volunteering opportunities and for hosting a Youth Volunteer Development Manager and Youth Adviser team will be made in early September.
- Suitable organisations can secure private sector support to create or extend volunteering opportunities for 16-25 year olds, may be able to have that support matched by v.
- For further details please visit: www.wearev.com