

006/2006

Wednesday 27 September 2006

## Youth volunteering receives major boost

Thousands of young people across England will have the opportunity to volunteer in projects which give them new ways to engage with their local community, it was announced today. Over 30,000 new opportunities will be created when 63 organisations share £10 million of grants from new youth volunteering charity v. These grants are one of the many ways v will be inspiring a million more young volunteers in the next five years.

A wide range of charities – including the Eating Disorders Association and Bolton Lads & Girls Club – will use their grants to create numerous full-time and part-time volunteering opportunities. v is also funding the first wave of vteams – each consisting of a Youth Development Manager and Youth Volunteer Adviser – which will build local communities' capacity to generate volunteering activity.

Terry Ryall, v Chief Executive, said: "We are very impressed with the diversity of organisations that will receive grants and the innovation that has been demonstrated in the projects. There is a mix of traditional organisations extending their reach to young people and exciting new projects which involve young people as never before. The grants and the vteams will have an immediate and sustainable impact on volunteering for young people."

The **Eating Disorders Association (EDA)** has been given £65,500 to create 50 part-time opportunities for a project where young people will provide self-help support to young people affected by eating disorders. EDA's Chief Executive, Susan Ringwood, said:

"The *We:Help:Me* project will give young people the chance to turn their experiences into something positive that also helps others. One of the first tasks will be for young people to build their own website which reflects their needs and aspirations and we will be creating opportunities for them to 'talk' in confidence with a group of trained young people who know exactly what they are going through."

Among the first organisations to receive funding for a vteam is **Bolton Lads and Girls Club (BLGC)**. The charity, which provides activities and support services for young people from across Bolton, will use their £160,000 grant to generate about 1000 new volunteering opportunities in the area. Jeremy Glover, BLGC's Chief Executive, said:

"The v funding gives us the real opportunity to get young people in Bolton volunteering in a way that makes a difference. They will be able to get involved in new and exciting projects like helping make Bolton's town centre park more enjoyable and creative ways to help older people in the community."

The 30,000 new volunteering opportunities represent over 7,500 part-time and almost 1,200 full-time opportunities, and 23,000 opportunities created through the vteams. In July, v gave £1 million to 28 organisations to create over 9,000 new short-term volunteering opportunities. Several projects are being run as pilot schemes with the potential to create even more impact when they roll out across the country.

Ends

For further information about v, please contact Rhian Williams, PR Manager – 020 7084 8006/ 07941 908848 or [rhian.williams@wearev.com](mailto:rhian.williams@wearev.com)

#### 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. An 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.

#### Grants rounds

- v's opportunity grant rounds were launched on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2006 and included full-time, part-time and short-term opportunity allocations
- In addition, grants were available to fund 20 vteams.
- The results of the first grants round for short-term opportunities were announced on July 24<sup>th</sup> 2006.
- Details of future funding rounds will be made available on [www.wearev.com](http://www.wearev.com)

Successful applicants for **full-time opportunities** in the first round are as follows:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>English Region</b>
Young Suffolk	East
British Red Cross	London
Sheffield Futures	Yorkshire and Humberside
SOVA	National (3 Regions)
BTCV	South West
Weston Spirit	North East
Citizens Advice Bureaux	National (Pilot Region to be selected)
DISC	North East
Rathbone	London
Knowle West Youth Forum	South West
Youth Aid Lewisham	London
British Youth Council	National
Berkshire Scout Enterprises Ltd	South East
Newham Volunteer Centre Network	London
Cumbria Youth Alliance	North West
Portsmouth Housing Association	South East
Young People Cornwall	South West

Successful applicants for **part-time** opportunities in the first round are as follows:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>English Region</b>
Darlington YMCA	North East
Somerset Rural Youth Project	South West
Stockport Council for Voluntary Services	North West
Warrington Volunteer Centre	North West
Lancaster University Volunteering Unit	North West
Royal Mencap Society	National
Second Wave	London
WorldWrite	London
Kent Youth	South East
Film and Video Workshop	London
Southampton No Limits	South East
Groundwork Oldham and Rochdale	North West
Citizens Advice Bureaux	National

British Youth Council	National
Birmingham Association of Youth Clubs	West Midlands
Rainer	South East
12 Steps to Mental Health	West Midlands
North Warwickshire CVS	West Midlands
Sheffield Wildlife Trust	Yorkshire and Humberside
Woodford Christian Life Church Bridge project	London
Weston Spirit	North East
Youth Aid Lewisham	London
Connexions Lincolnshire and Rutland	East Midlands
Eating Disorders Association	National
Involve	South West
Lambton Street Fellowship Centre	North East
Young Bristol	South West
Foresight Ltd	North East
ICA UK	North West
Hove YMCA	South East
Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust/North Downham Training Project	London

Successful applicants to host vteams in the first round are as follows:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Region</b>
Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs	West Midlands
Bolton Lads & Girls Club	North West
Royal Mencap Society	North West
Lancashire Education Business Partnership	North West
North Tyneside Voluntary Organisations Development Agency (VODA)	North East
Changemakers	North East
The Scarman Trust	Yorkshire and Humberside
Student Volunteering England	Yorkshire and Humberside
York Volunteer Centre	Yorkshire and Humberside
FOCUS Charity	East Midlands
Norwich & Norfolk Voluntary Services	East
Volunteer Centre Sutton	London
Volunteer Centre Westminster	London

Toynbee Hall	London
Volunteer Network Centre & Newham Youth Providers Partnership	London
VSU Youth in Action	South East
Young Gloucestershire	South West
English Heritage with The National Trust	South West
Dorset Youth Association (DYA)	South West
The Crime Concern Trust Ltd	North West