

Scouting Sunday topic paper: Youth volunteering



Item Code FSSStopic4 Aug/08 Edition no 1

0845 300 1818

Topic 4: Youth volunteering

Question: It would help more young people to volunteer in their local area if...?

Being able to volunteer is seen as a key part of being an active member of society, because it allows you to give something back to your local community and learn new skills as well as meet people from many different walks of life. However a [recent survey by the Samaritans](#) showed that whilst 65% of 16-24 year olds express a general will to help their community in their spare time, only 2% would actually show up to volunteer.

Background information: What is being done to encourage young people to volunteer?

The Government believes encouraging young people to volunteer is critical to their personal and social development so in recent years there have been a number of schemes to help encourage them to get involved. These have included the Millennium Volunteers scheme, launched in 1999, the Russell Commission's framework for youth action and engagement published in 2005 and the new youth volunteering charity V launched in 2006.

The Scouts also recently conducted the [Morgan inquiry](#) which looked at barriers to volunteering for young people aged 18-24. The inquiry found

that volunteering needs to be more flexible - possibly supporting an 8hours/year volunteering allowance with employers; there needs to be greater clarity in terms of jobseekers' allowance that volunteering is a valid route to employment; there needs to be better and more centralised information on opportunities available for volunteering and that there needs to be formal recognition of volunteering

What do the politicians think should be done to help young people volunteer?

The Conservatives have written a [Policy Paper on volunteering and the voluntary sector](#) and are calling for a [National Citizens Service](#) and incentives such as phone credits for volunteering. Labour commissioned [Baroness Neuberger's review of volunteering in the public sector](#) and has [long championed the role of young volunteers](#) as well as moves towards [mandatory volunteering](#) for young people. The Liberal Democrats have also talked about young people volunteering, most recently about how young volunteers [can be part of tackling youth crime in a Youth Volunteer Force](#).

News

Virtual volunteers, real results

The Guardian, 2 June 2008

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/jun/02/volunteering.voluntarysector>

Reaching out to volunteers

The Guardian, 18 March 2008

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/mar/18/volunteering.voluntarysector>

Drive for more young volunteers

BBC, 15 June 2005

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4093326.stm>

Resources

V

Charity championing youth volunteering in England

<http://www.wearev.com/>

Young People's Volunteering and Skills Development

Summary of report from the National Youth Agency

http://www.nya.org.uk/shared_asp_files/GFSR.asp?NodeID=108045

A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR YOUTH ACTION AND ENGAGEMENT

Full Report by the Russell Commission

http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/russellcommission/docs/Final_report.pdf

YouthNet Volunteering links on Delicious

<http://delicious.com/YouthNet/volunteering>

The Morgan Inquiry

<http://www.morganinquiry.org.uk/>