

Dear Tim,

Re: All Party Parliamentary Group on Youth Affairs

Thank you for joining the All Party Parliamentary Group on Youth Affairs on Tuesday 8 February 2011 for our meeting on the National Citizen Service.

I hope you enjoyed meeting the large number of young people who took the time to come to Westminster. The APPG is seeking to find new and interactive ways to ensure that as young people move from childhood through adolescence and towards adulthood they are given opportunities to feed into public policy their experiences and concerns about a wide range of issues. Working with a wide range of organisations helps ensure a variety of young people from many different backgrounds— sometimes loud, sometimes funny, sometimes moving and always worth hearing- can participate in these events.

At the meeting we promised to write to you and your shadow colleague Toby Perkins MP. Following the discussion with yourself and Toby, the young people set out a series of follow up questions they wished to put to you both about this topic. These can be grouped into the following four main areas on which I would welcome your comments. This response will be shared with the young people who attended, as a way to continue the dialogue between young people and Government.

The similarity of NCS to other schemes

- Will there be a cost benefit analysis of the £50million being spent on the NCS pilots or other youth services/groups?
- How will the NCS link up with existing provision for young people?
- Will there be links to other volunteering opportunities within the local area?
- Will the NCS work with schools to deliver the scheme?

Ensuring the NCS is inclusive

- How will the scheme appeal to a mixture of people from different backgrounds?
- Will delivery organisations have enough time to build relationships with young people in two weeks and how can the wider youth sector be helped to continue to support them after their NCS experience?
- Why is the scheme limited to 16 year olds and not available to 17-25 year olds?

Young people's input into the scheme

- Will young people advise on the scheme following this year's pilot?
- How will youth involvement be ensured?
- Will there be extensive consultation?
- How will the scheme empower young people?

- Will detailed literature on the scheme be produced?
- Will evidence from previous sessions and pilots be made publicly available?

The legacy for young people

- What are young people left with after the programme?
- How do you motivate young people to take part and not revert to old habits after participating?
- How will sustainability and consideration of the long-term be built into the projects?
- How will participants be treated as adults after completing the scheme?
- How will wider opportunities for young people be protected?
- Can participation in the NCS be accredited, enabling young people's experience to be recognised by employers and further education providers and to therefore be of value for the participants' future employment and education prospects?

I hope this is useful feedback on the comments that the NCS discussion generated and I look forward to receiving your formal response to the questions raised. Once again thank you for taking the time to meet with the APPG on Youth Affairs.

Yours sincerely,

Stella Creasy MP

Co-chair – APPG on Youth Affairs