



NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE TRUST

OFFICIAL

Minutes of a meeting of the board of directors held by teleconference at 17:30 pm on Thursday 29 October 2020

Present*:	Brett Wigdortz (Chair) Paul Cleal Ndidi Okezie Tristram Mayhew Sarah Knight (Secretary)	Mark Gifford (CEO) Dame Julia Cleverdon John Maltby Jermain Jackman (Youth rep.)
In attendance	Jas Khela (observer) Nick Smith (Head of Strategy Development)	Deborah Tavana (observer) Michael Devlin (Director of Governance and Delivery)
Apologies:	Ian Livingstone Sam Freedman (observer)	Lord Iain McNicol Dean Creamer (Govt rep. - observer) Natalie Perera (observer)

*all by teleconference

1. Welcome and declarations of conflicts of interest

- 1.1 Mr Wigdortz welcomed the Board to the meeting.
- 1.2 Dame Julia and Ndidi Okezie had a conflict of interest at item (4) of the meeting and recused themselves at this point.

2. Revised 1-year CSR submission - key changes from prior submission

- 2.1 In light of the Chancellor's recent announcement that there would be a one year Spending Review. NCS had been invited to submit an updated funding submission under very tight timescales.
- 2.2 Mr Gifford outlined the headlines of the new submission, including the fact that the costs were not dissimilar but the "shape" of the programme would change.
- 2.3 He provided a summary of the key changes from the 1 year submission to the 3 year submission and outlined plans on Kickstart and #iwill that would be discussed later on the agenda.
- 2.4 Provider costs would be slightly higher due to lost discounts from not being able to leverage across years. The Trust's primary concern was the network's appetite and viability to deliver given uncertainties around a 1 year funding outlook.. Other consequences for the Trust were also discussed.
- 2.5 Around 15,000 young people had been engaged physically on the autumn programme to date, and c.25,000 through the Trust's support offer, which would provide a helpful backdrop to the CSR decision. This is higher than last year's numbers and allowed us to innovate with virtual delivery.
- 2.6 It was also noted that a 3 year CSR provided time to continue to refine the 3 year vision.
- 2.7 A concern was raised around participation numbers looking low. This reflected the potential impact of a 'Covid hangover' as well as GCSEs potentially being postponed to June. However it was noted that further reach could be achieved through local action groups and online content.

- 2.8 The board were gravely concerned about the impact of the decision for the Trust's supply chain of youth organisations as well as on the broader youth sector. It was suggested that "the connection between NCS and the frontline youth organisations isn't readily obvious to most" and the board questioned whether there was anything more NCS Trust could do to champion the youth sector.
- 2.9 There was discussion of whether there was any possibility of a multi-year agreement at this stage and it was agreed this was highly unlikely.
- 2.10 The board emphasised that it was crucial the message was heard that the 2021 cohort of young people must not "miss out" on NCS given it was one of a limited range of options available to young people and it was important that everything possible was done not to further disadvantage this cohort.

2.11 **Decision: The board agreed the 1 year funding submission as tabled**

3. KickStart proposal

3.1 The proposal for the Trust to work with DWP to deliver the Kickstart programme was presented. This would include working with other organisations to find work placements for young people, or providing these through the NCS supply chain. Supporting youth unemployment was seen as a key area, although it was noted that the previous Youth Corps proposal should not drift as it was also critically important. It was noted that Youth Corps was likely to be seen as 'novel and contentious' thus requiring a HMT business case, however it was still the Trust's ambition to aim for this longer term. It was suggested that NCS Trust should work in partnership with other gateway organisations on the Kickstart programme.

3.2 **Decision: The board approved the Kickstart proposal**

4. iWill proposal

- 4.1 Ms Okezie and Dame Julia Cleverdon left the meeting for this agenda item as they had a conflict of interest. Before leaving:
- Ms Okezie raised an AOB, suggesting that NCS could use its channels to help raise awareness of Child Trust Funds.
 - Dame Julia Cleverdon explained her role in the #iwill programme and provided a brief overview of its achievements to date.
- 4.2 Mr Gifford explained that NCS Trust had submitted an Expression of Interest in response to #iwill's calls for bids and explained the Trust's rationale. If the Expression of Interest was accepted, the executive would revert to the board before proceeding formally.

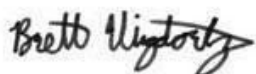
4.3 **Decision: The board agreed with the proposal being included in the 1 year spending review submission**

5. AOB

5.1 There were no additional items of AOB beyond Ms Okezie's item.

The meeting closed at 18:30 pm.

These minutes were approved as a correct and complete record of the proceedings by the Board at its meeting on 03 December 2020, and signed by the chairman as authentication.



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Chair