

New Autumn NCS Programme 2020



The [National Citizen Service](#) (NCS) has designed and will deliver a revised programme for autumn 2020, to help young people reengage with education and get involved in their communities, supporting the recovery after Covid-19. The revised programme is a minimum of 2 days content with the option to extend to 5 days.

What's included?

- **FREE** to young people and colleges/schools
- Focus on mental health and wellbeing
- Team building and reengagement activities
- Connect with local communities
- Create a social action project
- Students can take part in summer AND autumn
- Optional sessions on careers, enterprise and political awareness
- Supports young people's return to learning

How is it delivered?

- Takes place over 2-5 days
- Flexible dates across autumn
- Can be on consecutive days or across the course of 5-10 weeks
- Can be built into curriculum, enrichment time or half term
- Fully staffed by trained and DBS checked NCS staff
- Can be delivered on or off site

Example of the autumn programme (content will vary by Delivery Partner)

	Day 1 – Core	Day 2 – Core	Day 3 – Optional	Day 4 – Optional	Day 5 – Optional
AM	Team Building Activities · e.g. giant jigsaw and other team building activities where social distancing forms part of the challenge. Introduce 'Plan, Do, Review'	Community Exploration - 1 · What are the issues in your community and what's important to you?	Careers Guidance · Do you know what career you want to pursue? · What are your next steps? · National Careers Service led	Who do you trust? Fake News · How do you navigate the news and social media safely? · The Common Sense Network designed or led	Option 1 – leads to SAP Social Action Planning · What issue do you want to address and how do you intend to do it? · Planning for a Social Action project of up to 30 hours to be delivered after the initial five days
	OR: Onsite outdoor activity e.g. archery/climbing tower/bush craft/first aid - Delivered by local activity providers	What is Social Action? · What do people do to support their communities? · What can you do to support your local community?		Political Engagement · National, regional and local politics · Why is it important and how do you get involved? · Option for UK Parliament	
PM	Mental Health & Wellbeing · How to look after yourself and others. Delivered by Kooth, Mind or other local mental health provision	Community Partner visit · An opportunity to meet people that support your community and be inspired to Do Good - Offsite	Enterprise Challenge · Meet a business and help them solve a real challenge	Community Exploration - 2 · Listening project – talking to the local community to find out what's important to them - Offsite	Option 2 – no SAP What we've learnt · Reflecting on how what you've learnt will help you during year 12. Presentation skills workshop and presentation to teacher /tutor · Speakers Trust or Loudspeaker led · School or college only
	Navigating Year 12 · Where are you now and where do you want to go?				
	Reflection & next steps	Reflection & next steps		Reflection & next steps	

For more information and a discussion about how our autumn programme can work for your college or school, contact your NCS Delivery Partner if you know them, or email Helen Hawxwell at ncs_partners@growthco.uk for an introduction.

NCS 2020 Questions and Answers

Which learners would most benefit from the NCS experience this autumn?

NCS is available to all Year 12s, but feedback from Richard Caulfield, AOC, members of the GM Mental Health group and individual colleges suggests that this year's programme would most benefit any learner who may need additional support reengaging with and returning to learning. This could include L1/L2 Study Programme learners or those on pre-apprenticeship programmes. Cohorts could be drawn from across the college.

When and how can the programme be delivered?

Flexibility is central to the NCS activities this autumn. The content could be delivered in a 'block' of 2-5 days, or in a modular approach across a number of weeks. It could take place during enrichment time, or students' non-contact time in college, at college sites or community venues, dependent on availability (our Delivery Partners will source and procure this). The programme could form part of tutorial sessions, covering key pastoral elements such as communication, mental health and well-being, teamwork and socialisation, goal setting and motivation, and reflection activities. Half term options may also be offered, depending on location.

Who is my Delivery Partner?

There are 11 Delivery Partners (DPs) running NCS across different parts of the North West, working under The Growth Company as a Management Partner for the region. Delivery Partners range from youth organisations such as Bolton Lads and Girls Club, to sporting clubs such as Lancashire Cricket Foundation, or Everton in the Community. Some organisations, such as Inspira and Youth Federation, run other programmes for young people in their areas, but when they engage with colleges, they will only be discussing the NCS programme, and to ensure consistency, young people will know them as NCS. You can email ncs_partners@growthco.uk to be linked in with your DP.

How will learners be contacted, about the NCS programme?

Once learners have shared their details with us (usually via our website), our team will get in touch with them and their Parent or Guardian over the phone to ensure they are allocated to the correct programme and to support them through the process of providing any additional details required, such as medical and dietary information. This information is usually provided via our secure NCS Community Portal, but our team will be on hand to guide Parents and Guardians through it as needed. All contact at this stage of the journey will follow a specific pattern, in order to ensure contact is sufficient to support learners and their Parents or Guardians through the process without becoming excessive.

For learners taking part in NCS under an agreement with their school or college, usually within term-time, once they have provided all required information to our central team any contact prior to starting the programme can be agreed between the Delivery Partner and the school or college in whatever format is deemed appropriate.

For learners taking part in NCS independently, in mixed cohorts with learners from other institutions (social distancing rules permitting), once all required information has been provided to our Central teams, Delivery Partners will contact young people and parents/guardians via a variety of media, to ensure they have the information they need and have opportunities to ask questions.

How is the NCS programme different to our tutorial/pastoral sessions? How can it complement the offer we already have?

NCS provides experiences and skills which help to prepare young people for their future, delivered in a way which is engaging, thought-provoking and youth-led. Our staff are often youth workers or education practitioners, with a passion for making a difference in young people's lives. The NCS autumn activities encompass many of the usual elements of the NCS experience, in a shorter time, without the residential. We plan to bring outward bound activity providers to colleges for outdoor team building sessions, such as climbing, archery and bush-craft. We ensure a focus on mental health and wellbeing, personal motivation and reflection. All activities are designed to complement students' academic timetable, setting them up for success in Year 12.

How is quality and success measured, on the NCS programme?

Success for NCS means young people have attended, enjoyed their experience, and received a quality experience which meets the outcomes in the NCS Quality Framework and the core curriculum components. Quality assessment, evaluation and continuous improvement runs through all elements of the design and delivery of the NCS programme, based on NCS Quality Framework, with reviews and feedback throughout. This runs from the minute a young person expresses an interest to their NCS 'graduate' experience. A key component is compliments and complaints monitoring, collated via national, anonymous feedback surveys from young people and parents/guardians after their NCS programme.

At an individual college level for the term-time, bespoke programmes, review meetings will be arranged locally with Delivery Partners to discuss the experience for learners and the college.

Delivery Partners are measured on a range of outcomes, including customer satisfaction (Young people/Parents and guardians) as well as numbers of young people taking part, and those continuing onto NCS graduate pathways.

How can the NCS content be tailored to the needs of my college?

The timetable in this document provides an example of the NCS content this autumn, but within the core and optional elements, we will work with each college to design a curriculum and timetable which meets your needs. Each Delivery Partner will meet (virtually, under current guidance) with a designated contact/contacts at the college to design and plan an experience for your students, and also work with them to design the in-college/direct engagement approach.

We haven't finalised our own timetable for the autumn term. How can we commit to NCS without this certainty?

It's an uncertain time, and guidance continues to evolve, making planning challenging. We understand colleges' main focus is welcoming learners back safely and ensuring academic study is delivered. At this stage we'd ask to be considered as part of your planning for the autumn term, and to have a discussion about how NCS may fit this. The window for NCS delivery this autumn is September - December.

We may have some learners opting to resit exams - how might this impact on NCS delivery?

We will work with colleges to understand and agree the numbers of young people who will take part in the programme in the autumn term. Our staffing and delivery model will be tailored to reflect the numbers and timing of the programme delivery. We'd ask colleges to discuss with us any potential changes to dates or numbers of learners, due to revision or exams, as early as possible, to assist with planning decisions.

Can learners do any NCS activities over the summer?

Yes, we are offering a volunteering and social action-focussed programme this summer for all current Year 11 and Year 12s, called Keep Doing Good. The programme will be delivered across the North West and asks young people to commit 16 hours of their time to Do Good in their communities, to support the response to COVID-19. All young volunteers will receive training and briefings and be fully supervised and receive formal recognition for their efforts. They can volunteer through Keep Doing Good AND take part in autumn activities. For more information see [HERE](#).