

The Russell Commission

The Prince's Trust welcomes the Russell Commission's main recommendation to set up a new national volunteering body for young people with an emphasis on quality and diversity of opportunity. The Prince's Trust programmes already embed a culture of community action which engages the skills and creativity of youth so we embrace the principles and recommendations of this report and believe that we can make a significant contribution towards achieving its aims.

The report, *A National Framework For Youth Action and Engagement*, (russellcommission.org), is a thorough exploration of issues, solutions and framework to inform future choices and will be a 'must have' for any organisation serious about promoting youth volunteering.

The Prince's Trust will support and assist the new implementation body with its experience and expertise in the particular areas of youth-led funding for volunteer action at home and overseas. The Commission names The Trust as a potential partner in this regard and we look forward to an opportunity to engage more disadvantaged young people - to help themselves by helping others.

We will share our experience of young people as supporters, advisors and mentors in public sector and social enterprise settings, and our newly developing work to use the Sport Leaders Award to encourage more involvement of young disadvantaged people through volunteering in sports settings.

We share the Commission's aspirations for developing recognition of volunteering experience that will increase the credible employability of young people.

March 2005