

Budget 2005 – response from The Prince's Trust

Integrating enterprise into every young person's education is a great step forwards, as is the increased support outlined in the Budget 2005 for entrepreneurship and vocational education in areas of high ethnic minority unemployment. The Prince's Trust is likewise encouraging socially excluded young people to be enterprising, either in starting up their own business or developing their skills in order to get into employment, education or training. This year we will be piloting 'Enterprise Works', three-month work and development placements for socially excluded young people that will engage with local business networks and help young people into the labour market.

In a related move, renewed efforts to support young people off incapacity benefit and into work are a welcome development. The Prince's Trust works with unemployed young people to develop their skills, confidence and motivation and support them into work. Within this target group are many young people who are held back by mental health problems or physical disabilities. Additional support and skills development are vital if we are to help these young people move on with their lives.

Proposals for a national community service scheme for young people based on the principles of quality, quantity and diversity should open up new opportunities for socially excluded young people to enjoy volunteering on a par with their peers. We are pleased that the scheme will include accreditation, so that young people may enjoy the immediate and longer-term benefits of volunteering and experiential learning that it represents. Through our Awards and the community project elements of our programmes, The Prince's Trust is already introducing socially excluded young people to volunteering through and through introducing volunteer role models. Around 8% of participants on our 12-week personal development programme on to volunteer full-time on completion of the programme.