

## 2. Voluntary Activities

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Volunteering is a key focus of youth policy. The remit for volunteering lies with the [Office for Civil Society](#) at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, which has specific responsibility for supporting youth policy and social action as well as the National Citizen Service (see '[National programme for youth volunteering](#)'). Besides the Government's role in major initiatives, the organisation of voluntary activities is characterised by a large degree of involvement of civil society or third sector, mainly voluntary or charitable, organisations.

In 2017 the Government passed the [National Citizen Service Act](#), which put the National Citizen Service on statutory footing. The [#iwill](#) fund, the national youth social action campaign, targets those from less affluent backgrounds through joint funding from the [Department for Culture, Media and Society \(DCMS\)](#) and the National Lottery Fund. The #iwill Fund supports the aims of the #iwill campaign, which is coordinated by Step Up to Serve, and [aims](#) to make involvement in social action the norm for ten to 20-year-olds across the UK. Since its 2016 launch over 500,000 young people are estimated to have undertaken social action opportunities as a result of the funding.

As a response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the UK government [pledged £750 million](#) in May 2020 to voluntary and community organisations (as well as social enterprises) to support their services, including youth volunteering organisations. £360 million from individual government departments to charities in England and £310 million for smaller local VCSE's working with vulnerable people in England.