

West Somerset Opportunity Area – National Citizenship Service

West Somerset



What is it?

The National Citizenship Service (NCS) is a voluntary personal and social development programme for 15–17 year olds in the United Kingdom, funded largely by money from the UK Government. It includes a week-long residential visit, involving physical and [team building](#) activities. After this, volunteers undertake a residential week, gaining a taste of independent living and learning a variety of skills for their future. In the third (and sometimes fourth) week, participants plan and deliver a "social action" project in their local community, often to raise awareness of or fundraise for a particular cause.

What is the issue in West Somerset?

- Take up in West Somerset has been particularly low with very few young people taking advantage of this national scheme.
- Both young people with special educational needs and those receiving pupil premium were poorly represented within the cohort.

Why do we think there was a low take-up?

Theories to be tested?

- Families are unable to afford the £50 registration fee
- Students are not stimulated by the idea of a residential so close to home
- Young people are working during the summer holidays and are therefore unable to attend the residential
- Young people are not sufficiently proactive to register for a place

West Somerset opportunity area active ingredients

- A bespoke programme offered (mandatory) for students of the West Somerset College at the beginning of the autumn term when the transfer to Year 12 begins.
- Registration fee to be funded by the opportunity area.
- Programme to include a city residential (Bristol).

What would success look like?

- Twice as many young people taking part.
- Increased take-up of young people with special educational needs and those receiving pupil premium.

Lessons learnt:

- In 2018 numbers doubled by offering an autumn term NCS as part of the college curriculum, of which nine students received free school meals and all had special educational needs.
- Students should attend the college at the beginning of Year 12 before taking part in the residential so that expectations can be clarified.
- Some students took part in the summer programme and therefore an enhanced offer needed to be created so that it was not the duplication.



What next?

Find out more from students who took part including:

- Why did students choose to do autumn rather than summer: potentially because the college made it part of 6th form enrolment.
- Feedback from those 9 students that completed our summer ***and*** autumn programmes to get comparative feedback on those programmes.
- Why some students didn't do it: Did those students have summer jobs?

Results

	2015	2016	2017		2018	
Number of young people taking part	3	2	Summer	30	Summer	30?
			Autumn	2	OA September	31
Number of pupil premium students	2	0	Summer	1	Summer	0
			Autumn	0	OA September	9
Number of SEND students	0	0	Summer	1	Summer	1
			Autumn	0	OA September	1