

years. True Volunteer Foundation (TVF) has a national delivery service, works with private sponsors and young people, and is driven by passion, social conscience and doing it all free.

As part of a successful DCLG Social Action Week TVF provided volunteering opportunities for DCLG staff. They are confident that they are able to roll out this programme on a wider scale, using the same model across other government departments, acting as a platform for the 'Civic Service'. Some Departments have expressed an interest and TVF will be working to roll this out.

See <http://www.truevolunteer.org/Default.aspx>

You can read more about TVF and this priority as a whole in **Part Two**.

Challenges to Action

In March 2011, I identified twelve challenges to action - actions I felt Government and others could be taking in the interests of safe and active communities. You can find about more about progress in these areas, examples and links to action underway, plus my thoughts about what more needs to be done, in Part Three.

Newlove Neighbourhoods

Meeting local people in their communities to learn from their experience is at the heart of what I do and what I stand for. For my first report, I worked particularly closely with activists in seven neighbourhoods, whom I personally chose as they came from a cross section of areas with different levels of problem and at different stages of community development. You can read the stories behind how they came to be activists and what they had achieved in my first report.

I have stayed in touch with this group because I strongly believe in them and in the need for communities to learn from one another. For this report, I have invited activists from the seven neighbourhoods, again in their own words, to let us know what has been going on over the past year: the successes, the barriers and the support they have received and their plans for the future.

You can read the latest from the Newlove Neighbourhoods in **Part Four**.



many years. There are many worthy organisations nationally delivering essential services and lifelines to many people in need. But I finally selected one whose ethos matches mine, promises a national delivery service, works with private sponsors and young people and who does what it does from passion, social conscience and without payment: True Volunteer Foundation.

DCLG's SOCIAL ACTION WEEK

At the DCLG staff can claim up to six days paid volunteering leave. During Social Action Week in November 2011, DCLG staff were able to find out more about volunteering through lunchtime sessions, visit a Volunteering Fair and sign up with an organisation, and to hear direct from volunteer 'books' from the Human Library.

In addition, the Department teamed up with True Volunteer Foundation (TVF) to offer a number of volunteering opportunities to staff during the week. These varied from individual opportunities to team challenges. TVF provided over 100 opportunities for civil servants (and other TVF staff and contacts) to work in six of 50 current projects and grassroots organisations in London alone: ranging from serving meals in a shelter for the homeless (see case study below) to repainting community centres - including one near the centre of the Tottenham riots. Volunteers worked outdoors and inside, and used their professional and personal skills. 48 civil servants signed up, with around 80 more lined up to volunteer for future work.

The Passage

Based in Carlisle Place, Victoria, the Passage offers a wide range of services, year round, to help homeless and vulnerable people. I 'walk the talk' so 7.30 am on Wednesday found me dishing out the beans, bacon and eggs to a line of hungry clients, joining civil servants and others in this rewarding task. The Department has policy responsibility for homelessness policy so this was a popular choice.

"The mission of The Passage is to provide resources which encourage, inspire and challenge homeless people to transform their lives. With a volunteer to staff ratio of over 3:1, volunteers are crucial to The Passage achieving that mission. We are proud to have been part of DCLG's Social Action Week; welcoming volunteers from DCLG and TVF to support our work, and in encouraging many more to get involved and truly



make a difference for some of the most disadvantaged people in our city.” *Mick Clarke, Chief Executive*

“I really enjoyed it - it was very well organised and we felt able to just walk in and have a genuine role with only five minutes training, which was great. I enjoyed feeling I was doing something useful and tangible and I enjoyed the opportunity to work with someone from another part of DCLG. We both found out quite a lot about what each other did at work which was a useful by product of the day - but one which would definitely be beneficial for the Department.” *DCLG employee*

TVF are confident they are able to roll out this programme on a wider scale, implementing the same model across other government departments, acting as a platform for the ‘Civic Service’. Some Departments have expressed an interest and TVF will be working to roll this out.

In addition, in the Giving White Paper (May 2011), the Government reiterated its commitment that each civil servant will be encouraged to do at least one day of volunteering each year using special leave. The Government also announced that the Civil Service will aim to give 30,000 volunteering days per year. The Cabinet Office hopes to measure the number of days the Civil Service has given via a survey in 2012. I believe it is important that we measure the growth in civil service volunteering because it can make such a massive contribution to the good of our communities. I shall watch the outcome of this survey with interest.

TRUE VOLUNTEER FOUNDATION

True Volunteer Foundation (TVF) is a unique, award winning, international charity which last year directly impacted over 110,000 people with projects across the UK and 27 other countries. Within the UK, TVF attracts corporate donors to provide a unique opportunity for civil servants, the corporate sector, universities and local communities to ‘True Volunteer’. TVF has a seven-year track record of partnering with small, local, grassroots organisations to create joint venture projects. Because TVF has a strong core force of university students, it is educating the next generation and leaders in social responsibility, creating a better ethos and ‘Big Society’. Google continues to provide TVF with free, paid-for search terms to enable partner charities to market their events and activities effectively. And regionally, BNI International continues to support TVF by providing skills-based volunteers and high quality mentors.





TVF has secured the University of Coventry's MBA programme pledge to donate the equivalent of five full-time MBA students to manage the HR requirement for recruiting, training and administering the Civil Service Volunteering programme. The University of Newcastle's Law School have signed up to the Baroness's projects, with four 2nd year undergraduates to work on tackling binge drinking in Freshers' Week and after.

TVF has offered expertise, volunteers and more importantly a non ring-fenced donation of £1,000 each to every one of the seven Newlove Neighbourhoods. By removing the burden of red tape and trusting the activists to spend it on ways to build community resilience, this has been a boost to these local people who struggle to raise money to realise their dreams.

To inspire wider Social Action, TVF is seeking to break down volunteering barriers for the wider public, by embarking on an exciting initiative that will take True Volunteering to where they shop on the High Street. Partnering with 3 Space, TVF will operate 'pop up' True Volunteering shops across the UK in prime locations. TVF will provide a free advisory service which will inspire action and present choice, matching local volunteering opportunities to their skills and interests.

Additionally, discussions are currently underway to determine how TVF can support the National Citizen Service. TVF are closely aligned to National Citizen Service, both models seek to encourage younger people to undertake 'Social Careers' for the greater good of society.



‘ The fact no one gets paid or even claims back expenses makes this charity and its True Volunteers a fantastic example of the Big Society. ’
Sir Cliff Richard

