

***PRESS RELEASE! PRESS RELEASE! PRESS RELEASE!***

## **CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL COLLEGE LAUNCHES UNIQUE VOLUNTEERING SCHEME**

10 July 2009

**Cambridge Regional College (CRC) is seeking skilled and enthusiastic Volunteer Support Workers to run the new “v talent year” full-time volunteering programme. CRC wants to recruit full-time volunteers, aged 16–25, to work with College students to develop and support them in the organisation of their own volunteering activities.**

The College has been awarded a grant by v, The National Young Volunteers' Service, following on recent research showing that 1 in 3 young people would consider full time volunteering. The College is now looking to recruit young people to take part in the v talent year programme, who want to make a positive difference to themselves and others.

Jackie Cannell, Head of Learner Engagement & Support comments, “We are delighted to be launching this new and unique programme, which will help volunteers to develop their skills while making a meaningful difference to college and school communities. The volunteers will be involved in a range of learner support activities such as developing healthy lifestyles, supporting young parents and leading youth work challenges”.

The College will recruit 15 volunteers a year for the next two years who will carry out approximately 30 hours of volunteering per week, over the 44 week placement.

Volunteers will be recruited from the local community, with 40% of places available to young people who are not employed or in any form of education or training.

The programme enables young volunteers to work towards a level 2 qualification and on completion of their placement; they can apply for a Personal Development Grant of up to £1,500 to support their learning and development after the programme. With this experience and an accredited qualification under their belt, the young volunteers will be well-placed to progress on to further training or employment.

The nationwide v talent year programme, which is already operating in 32 Local Authority Children & Young People's services, will share out £8.6m among 30 Further Education colleges across the country. It is part of v's wider investments in full-time volunteering, which have already created 20,000 full time volunteering placements across England.

Terry Ryall, v's Chief Executive says, "v is delighted to award Cambridge Regional College this grant to support full time volunteering among 16-25s. We believe it will unleash young peoples' talents and bring valuable new support services to the college community."

If you are interested in taking up this great opportunity then contact the College Support Worker via 01223 418440/418250 or visit the website on [www.camre.ac.uk](http://www.camre.ac.uk)

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**NOTES TO EDITOR:**

1. v is The National Youth Volunteers Service, whose mission is to inspire a new generation of young volunteers in England aged 16-25.
2. v's aim is to create a culture where volunteering comes naturally – and where the benefits of volunteering are understood and celebrated.
3. v is an independent charity launched in May 2006 as a result of the Russell Commission report, A National Framework for Youth Action and Engagement.
4. To find out more about v visit the charity's website [www.vinspired.com](http://www.vinspired.com).

5. The research referred to is “Young People Speak Out – attitudes and perceptions to full time volunteering” and was published by v on 2 June 2009

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

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