

CHARLEA MEDCALF

#iwill



*Charlea Medcalf, 16 years old
From: Norwich, England*

CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Empathy | Courage | Leadership | Resilience, Perseverance
& Determination | Communication

#iwill ... help recruit and train other young people to volunteer as Digital Buddies and expand the project into other areas of Norfolk.

I am a Young Commissioner for the Breckland Youth Advisory Board, which means I work with my peers and representatives from local organisations to assess and respond to the needs of young people living in South Norfolk by commissioning and monitoring youth provision.

I also volunteer on a weekly basis as part of a team of Digital Buddies. Here, we help older people develop digital skills and learn how to benefit from using the internet. I also try to socialise with them too, which helps reduce feelings of loneliness and social isolation. To further support this project, I also recently helped to fundraise by running a tombola at a recent community event.

To help strengthen the Digital Buddies project, I have led video interviews with older people exploring how they have benefitted from participating in the Digital Buddies project and also supporting the training of new digital buddies.

Through taking part in social action, I have felt my confidence and leadership skills grow. I have also developed resilience – through overcoming my experiences of bullying at school. It goes to show that whilst I am helping others through taking part in social action, and ensuring that young people have a voice, I am also helping myself, and finding my own.

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Organisations I've Participated With:

South Norfolk Youth Advisory Board, Digital Buddies, Saffron Housing Trust, MTM Youth Services