

PATRICK CANTELOW

Organisations I've Participated With

NSPCC, National Citizen Service, Demelza Hospice, Swale Young People



Name: Patrick Cantellow

Age: 17

Where I Live: Canterbury, Kent

"Social action gives young people so many valuable skills for employment, but we have to help them articulate their experiences into language employers are looking for."

After fundraising from a young age, I started doing more within my local community after I took part in a National Citizen Service programme, an amazing experience which I'd recommend to anyone. During the programme we helped out in a local skate park which didn't have any funds for maintenance. This experience inspired me to set up a small non-profit organisation for young people in my area, Swale Young People.

Swale Young People supports a population of young people in Sittingbourne, Faversham and the Isle of Sheppey to increase their employability and to provoke a meaningful change in their lives, particularly through its strong social media presence. It's really important to the organisation that young people take part in quality social action to reap the double benefit of improving the community and improving their own lives.

Juggling setting up my own organisation with volunteering at other local organisations to advocate the youth voice has been difficult at times, but worth it. I've met some great friends and developed the patience to see long planning processes through to the end. In the future I'd like to see an All-Party Parliamentary Group set up to encourage youth social action and volunteering.

CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Confidence | Humility/Modesty | Open Mindedness | Resilience,
Perseverance & Determination | Cooperation

#iwill

... continue to speak publicly about the amazing benefits of youth social action and the doors it opens to young people.