

Youth Social Action in the UK- 2016

Headlines

- Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are still taking part in social action less, but the gap in participation appears to be narrowing
- Young people participating in social action have stronger personal networks and higher life satisfaction
- Encouragement and support from schools, parents and friends is a critical factor in getting young people involved
- Only 33% of young people who have never taken part in social action think the experience would help them get a job in future
- When it comes to social action *programmes*, young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are missing out even more



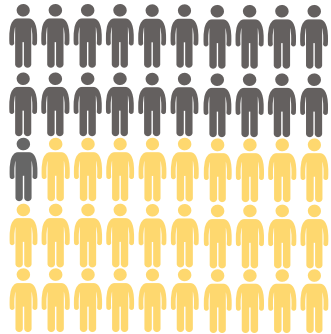
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Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are still taking part less, but the gap in participation appears to be narrowing



42%
of 10-20 year olds took part in **meaningful social action** in 2016

Respondents have participated in **meaningful social action** if they have:

- Participated at least every few months over the last 12 months, or done a one-off activity lasting more than a day; and
- Recognise that their activities had some benefit for both themselves and others

2016

40% Least affluent (DE)

Gap = 9% points

49% Most affluent (AB)

2014

31% Least affluent (DE)

Gap = 20% points

51% Most affluent (AB)



Call to action:

#iwill support young people who are currently missing out to get involved in youth social action



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Young people participating in social action have stronger personal networks and higher life satisfaction



Young people who participated in social action in the past 12 months report higher levels of life satisfaction than those who have never done any social action

Average life satisfaction score (out of 10)

8.6

vs

8.1

those doing meaningful social action

never done social action

This is similar to the difference between **permanent employees who are happy in their job** and those who **don't have a job and are seeking work.**

Young people who participated in meaningful social action in the last year are more likely to 'definitely agree' that if they needed help, there would be someone there for them (84% vs 62% never done social action)



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Call to action: #iwill spread the word about benefits of youth social action



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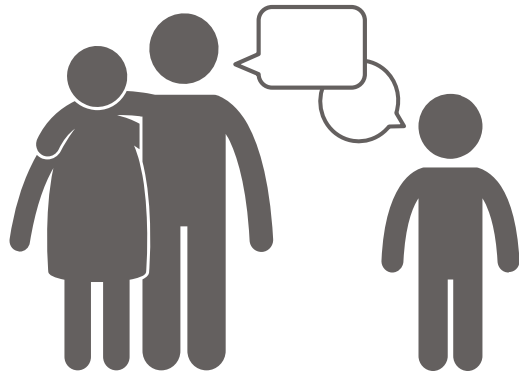
Base: All doing meaningful social action in the past 12 months (846) and all never done any social action (559)

Youth Social Action #iwill week infographics | November 2016 | Public

Note: the direction of causality is unclear – i.e. we cannot determine from this survey whether social action causes higher levels of satisfaction or vice versa, or whether other factor(s) lead to both higher levels of participation and satisfaction.

Youth Social Action in the UK – 2016: 2,082 young people aged 10-20 interviewed face-to-face in their homes between 2-16 Sept 2016, data weighted to be representative of the population of 10-20 year olds across the UK.

Encouragement and support from teachers, parents and friends is a critical factor in getting young people involved in meaningful social action

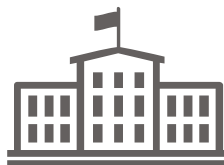


95% participating in meaningful social action received encouragement, compared to **45%** of those who have never participated



Call to action: #iwill encourage the young people in my life to take part in meaningful social action

School and college remain the most common route into meaningful social action



69% got involved through school or college

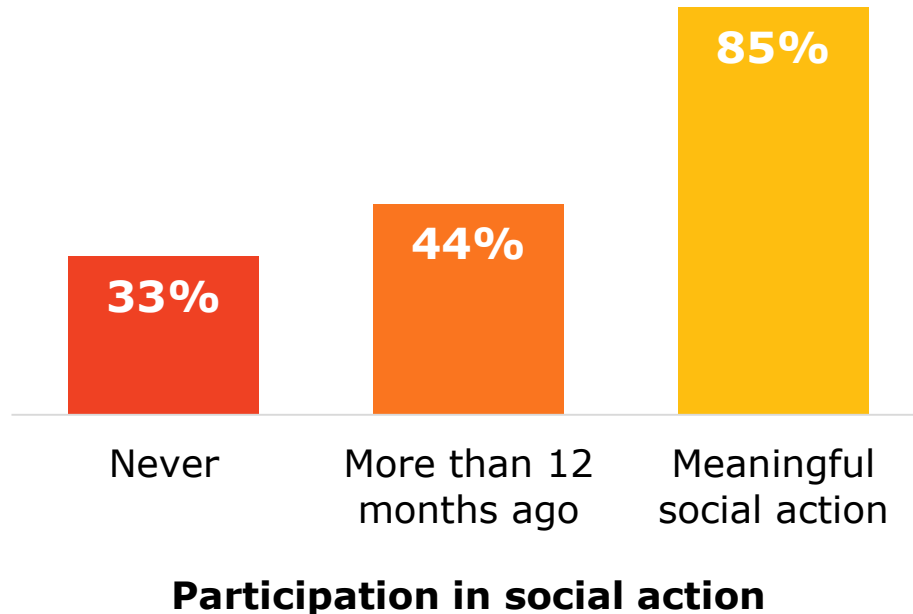


60% were encouraged by their teachers

- Participated at least every few months over the last 12 months, or done a one-off activity lasting more than a day
- Recognise that their activities had some benefit for both themselves and others

Only 33% of young people who have never taken part in social action think the experience would help them get a job in future

The proportion who thought doing social action would help them get a job in future increased with more involvement in social action:



67% employers report that entry-level candidates who have voluntary experience demonstrate more employability skills, yet **less than one fifth** (16%) ask about it at application stage and **only a third** (33%) ask about it at interview*.

*CiPD "Unlock new talent" guide, Learning to Work.



Call to action: as an employer, #iwill make it clear to young people in school, college and university that I value their youth social action experience



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When it comes to social action *programmes*, young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are missing out even more...



Participation in **social action programmes*** in the past 12 months varies with family affluence: 48% AB vs 27% DE.

*We defined a programme as participation in youth social action through a charity, a uniformed group, a development programme or full time volunteering. Young people were given relevant examples of these based on their location.

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Call to action: #iwill enable young people from all backgrounds to get involved in social action *programmes*

Young people who have participated in social action *programmes* are more likely than those who haven't to say the social action they did in the past year allowed them to...



Learn something new
(92% compared to 85%)



Be recognised for the difference they made
(74% compared to 52%)



Have a say in the activity
(75% compared to 63%)



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