



Lighting the Spark

Empowering children and young people for a stronger society



Strategic Plan 2023 – 2028



Citizenship Education (noun)

'Supporting children and young people to develop the knowledge, skills and motivation they need to become informed and responsible citizens who take an active role within society.'

For Young Citizens, citizenship education includes all forms of education, from non-formal education in the home or through youth work to the curriculum subject of citizenship. This includes experiences and practice paired with knowledge, which we sometimes collectively refer to as 'citizenship learning'.

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Foreword from our CEO

We believe a better democracy is the foundation for a better society with thriving communities, conscientious citizens and a more inclusive, prosperous world. We need only to look to the last few years in an increasingly divided UK to see that democracy and the values that underpin it require deliberate investment. It requires that every generation be given the opportunity to develop their civic literacy and active citizenship from a young age.

Citizenship education is the key that unlocks a kinder, more equitable society as well as one in which individuals, communities and nations are able to work together to solve problems and create a better future. It nurtures knowledge of our democratic systems and philosophy throughout education alongside the skillsets of critical thinking, advocacy, collaboration and decision-making that motivate them to act. It also allows children and young people to engage with their society, in turn building a sense of belonging and shared values.

The follow-up 2022 House of Lords' enquiry into progress on citizenship since the 2018 Ties that Bind report only went on to show how much more needs to be done to expand and normalise the offer of quality citizenship education.¹ We also know that those who are most likely to receive it are from more affluent backgrounds² and many educators are not able to offer robust civic learning without the support of third-party providers such as Young Citizens.³

This is why, after what have been dynamic, uncertain years for everyone in our society, like so many, we have taken this time to reflect on how we can have the most impact. Our 2017–2028 strategic vision, Empowering Young People for a Stronger Society, remains just as relevant today. However, we have recognised the need for and opportunity to re-evaluate our progress towards this mission, to amplify our service strengths and capitalise on what we bring to the citizenship education and youth sectors.

We believe this means honing in on our core role over the last 30 years: as a spark organisation that can help more stakeholders engage with and offer quality, inspiring, foundational citizenship education for more children and young people.

What does that mean? We know our scale, range of education interventions and long-established roots in quality civic learning mean many come to us when starting their journey in citizenship education. We work to help more state schools and community educators create flexible yet robust approaches, and ensure their leaders understand the essential need for citizenship learning to be on offer as a part of creating happy, thriving young people. It means we want to invest in what we do well but also work even better in partnership to complement these with other offers. We don't simply offer citizenship education programmes, but we are also working on driving forward coalition to improve them as a whole. Importantly, we are prioritising those groups that are often underserved or need more support in state schools and higher-need communities.

As Chief Executive it has become my focus to ensure we are providing impact for more young people of all backgrounds and building on our legacy to shape what active citizenship education needs to look like today.

Our priorities as Young Citizens:

- ▶ Accessibility of citizenship education so it can reach the people who may not benefit as often or readily by investing in easy-access points and outreach campaigns
- ▶ Connecting our beneficiaries to their communities and institutions to reduce the distance between these groups whilst bringing our learning experiences to life through partnerships
- ▶ Relevance and value of citizenship education being shaped by the young people it serves, helping to expand how it can be seen as a part of life-skills
- ▶ Championing the citizenship education agenda by advocating based on its impact and potential for impact through our evidence, research and convening stakeholders to unify our efforts across education, communities and institutions

For funders and supporters, we aim to be an expert partner developing the civic journey offer from a young age and helping see more flexible yet robust locally driven approaches in schools and communities with a focus on reaching those who are underserved. We will bring more institutions into our network, including business

leaders who want to invest in a thriving, sustainable economy, so they are both giving back and listening in.

How we collaborate and convene will be key. We want to be working together to make the journey easier for educators, volunteers and young people. Through our 'spark' approach we hope to act as a launchpad to propel our beneficiaries on to the next step, using partnerships to connect them to our like-minded expert organisations in the sector offering more in-depth, more supported or more advanced opportunities to expand that 'journey' offer.

The following strategy is designed to achieve this focus within the areas of democratic learning and empowerment, where we believe we can create the most change as Young Citizens. We hope you'll join us in lighting the spark of citizenship!

ASHLEY HODGES
Chief Executive | Young Citizens

¹ [House of Lords' Committee on Citizenship and Civic Engagement Follow-Up Report \(2022\)](#)

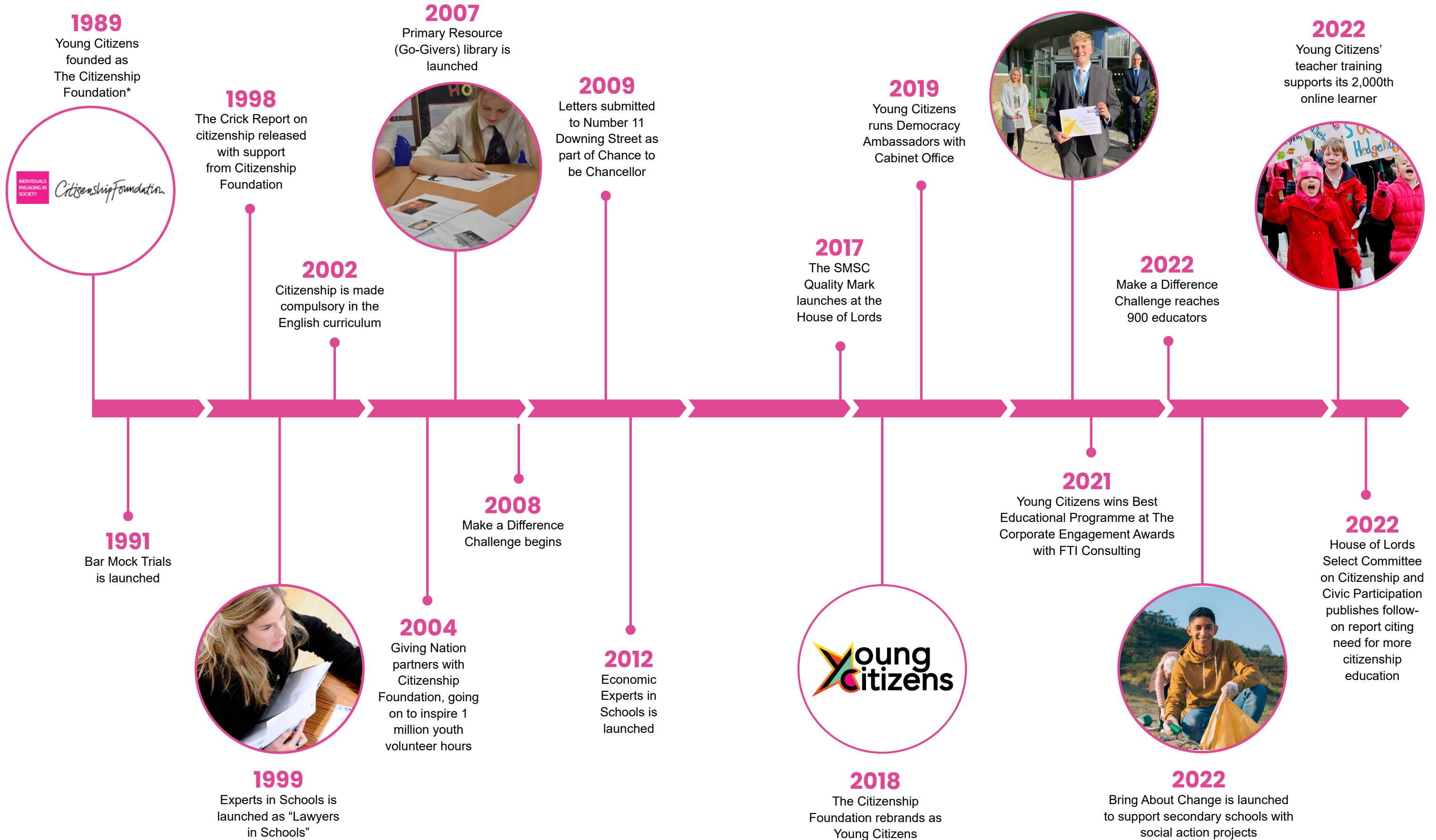
² [Dr James Weinberg, The Missing Link \(2021\)](#)

³ [Alison Body et al., Education for Social Good \(2023\)](#)



Introduction to Young Citizens

Our Story



Our Vision

A society where people are empowered to shape their communities and institutions to enable a thriving democracy.

Thriving democracy

'An inclusive, equitable and accessible system of government that is by the people and for the people it serves'

When we say democracy, we mean the full range of systems and institutions that make up society from voting to participation tools like collective action or volunteering. For it to thrive it must be inclusive, equitable, accessible, diverse and sustaining.

Community

'A group that shares or has certain attitudes and interests in common'

Communities are the groups of people we are tied to through geography, backgrounds and/or shared interests. We see these as local or global, tight knit or loose knit. These groups tend to have at least some shared attitudes or values, and can be physical or digital, or a blend.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide learning experiences that light the spark of active citizenship for children and young people.

We champion and deliver a range of interactive programmes and robust learning resources that build the knowledge, skills and confidence necessary to engage with complex issues and contribute to democratic life. Our work empowers children and young people from an early age to shape their communities, institutions and society, building habits for life.

Institution

'A large and powerful organisation that influences society'

Institutions are organisations that wield power. Alongside political and parliamentary structures, we use this term to refer to law, justice, the economy, media, housing, health and other bodies, such as companies or decision-making groups, within them.

Our Values

Our values make our work possible and enable us to create change for the world around us.

- ▶ We empower others so they can contribute and participate effectively for a stronger society.
- ▶ We believe empathy, compassion and building connections are key to being inclusive.
- ▶ We are committed to creating positive change and are ambitious in our goals.
- ▶ We consider our impact on others, including those we may never meet, to create a world for all and a more sustainable future.
- ▶ We collaborate to learn from one another, develop and amplify expertise and fuel collective impact.

Quality Citizenship Education (noun)

'A robust approach to citizenship education that is embedded in the curriculum over time'

Relevant resources and programmes delivered regularly by confident educators as an embedded part of a modern education, available to all.

Our Approach

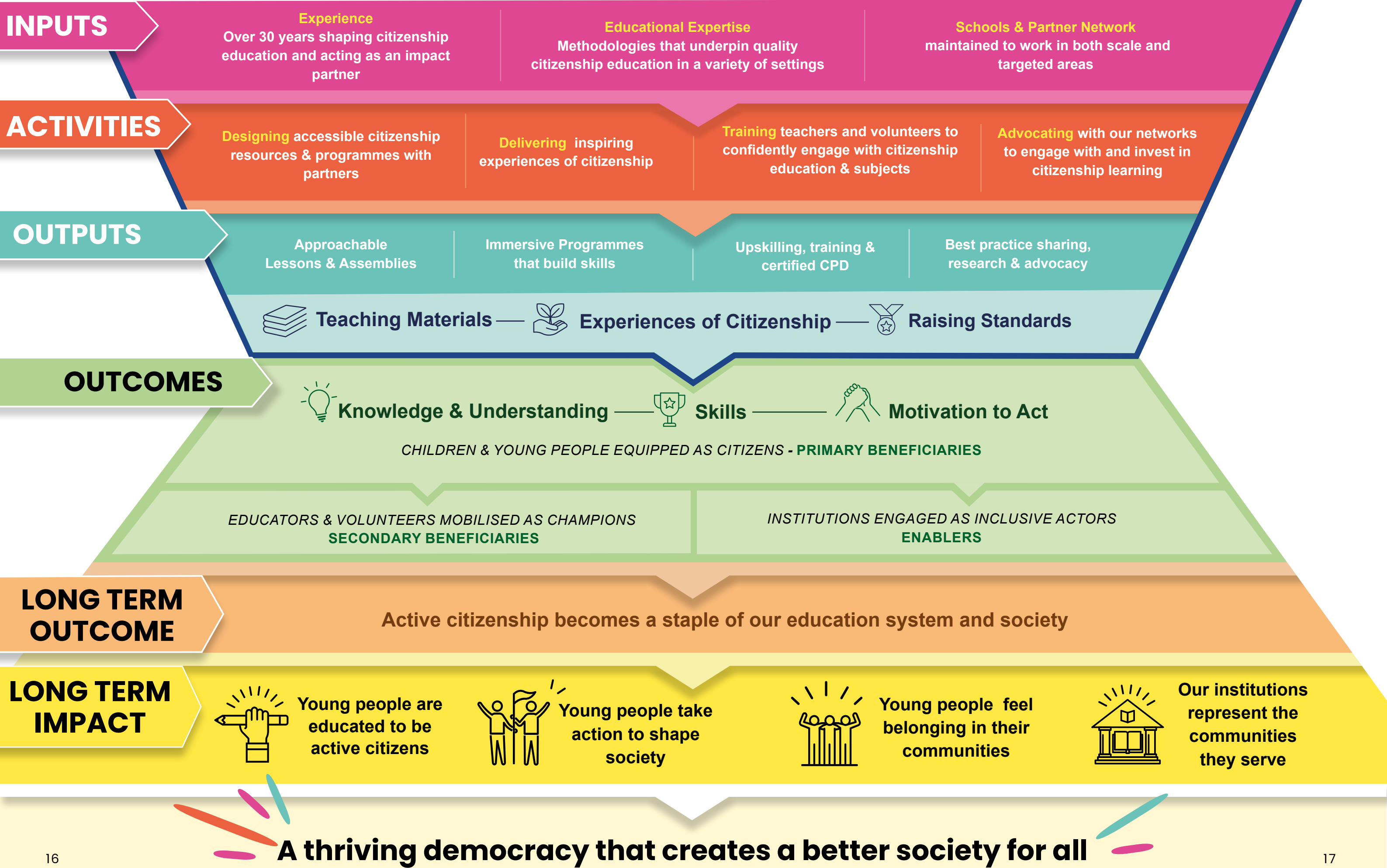
We create citizenship learning that is designed to increase the availability of quality citizenship education and make it more approachable for more educators. We design resources and programmes that are accessible, relevant and activate real-world citizenship skills.

Young Citizens sees that each of its interventions builds:

- ▶ **Knowledge & Understanding:** We ensure children and young people are given age-appropriate lessons and engage with learning about rights and responsibilities, governing institutions, democratic values, justice systems, our economy and wider systems that make up society.
- ▶ **Skills:** Our interventions come to life through the ability of children and young people to take what they are learning and apply skills. Whether a resource or immersive programme, this ranges from critical thinking and debating, to decision making and working well with others.
- ▶ **Motivation:** We recognise that knowledge and skills on their own are not enough to create active citizens. Children and young people also need to cultivate the desire to act by valuing democracy and our systems, a sense of civic responsibility, empathy, grit and belief in their own ability to make a difference.



Our Work



Inspiring and flexible lesson plans and assemblies



Teaching Materials

Primary resource library

Developing care, connectedness and values

Young Citizens is the UK's longest-serving provider of rich, inspiring civic learning for primary schools. Through our free library, we offer lesson plans, assemblies and teaching tools that are flexible to use at all stages of education, linking to PSHE, RSE, SMSC and the citizenship curriculum.

By addressing a range of topics, from cultural diversity to values to climate change, we equip educators for socially conscious, age-appropriate learning.

'These lessons are always interesting, and we get to do all sorts of different activities. We get to talk about lots of different things that sometimes make me really think.'

PUPIL



The Secondary+ resource library

Flexible citizenship learning that builds knowledge and skills

Our secondary age (11 years +) resource library gives a range of educators access to lessons for the citizenship curriculum and beyond. Our resources bring complex subjects to life by connecting them to practice and offer a chance to develop skills like critical thinking and oracy, with many being created in partnership with expert groups.

We make the big ideas accessible to both educators and learners, whether on politics, AI, sustainability, the economy, media or the rule of law.

Immersive and discursive learning



Experiences of Citizenship

Experts in Schools

Citizenship learning with corporate volunteers

Experts in Schools connects businesses with schools to give young people the chance to engage with professionals from the working world. Through our Legal, Economic and Media Experts in Schools sessions, they bring a range of subjects to life with unique insight from their day jobs.

Our sessions encourage debate about society's most topical issues, from fake news and filter bubbles to legal voting ages and human rights.

'My favourite thing about the session was stepping back from my daily grind and realising that to people outside of our corporate bubble, there is real help and expertise we can provide that actually makes a difference to people.'

**CORPORATE
VOLUNTEER**



Mock Trials and Legal Education

Bringing the law to life with legal volunteers

Since our inception in 1989, we have been committed to promoting legal education across the UK. For over three decades, we have delivered the National Mock Trial Competitions, which provide young people with insight into how the law works with the help of legal professionals.

We offer a range of legal resources enabling educators to offer key lessons across the year. In 2020, we launched The Big Legal Lesson™: our annual campaign that has introduced the law to 150,000 young people.



Youth-led social action programmes



Experiences of Citizenship

Youth-led social action (also known as community action) is about young people identifying and tackling issues to make a change in their communities.

Through the Make a Difference Challenge and Bring About Change, our education team has designed resources to help teachers and youth leaders run inspiring local projects. We have seen beach cleans to reduce plastic pollution, clothing drives to pursue a circular economy, awareness campaigns about period poverty and much more.

We give educators a flexible, easy-to-use framework to introduce social action into school life, whether it be a full project or single drop-down day.

Our social action programmes allow children and young people to be active citizens as they learn to assess and understand social justice issues, build life skills such as teamwork and ultimately change their world for the better.

‘As the headteacher of a school that prides itself on its character curriculum, this valuable resource gives us an opportunity to build on what we already have and to look at ways of incorporating social action into our provision.’

HEADTEACHER

Supporting practice and place



Raising standards

The SMSC Quality Mark

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural learning sits at the heart of education, enabling children and young people to face a complex and ever-changing society.

Young Citizens works with educationalists to help schools review, refine and revamp their SMSC provision through self-reviews and in-depth verifications.

‘This has been such a worthwhile experience in terms of reflecting on our current practice and knowing how we can continue to develop our SMSC provision.’

TEACHER



Teacher training

Based on over 30 years of expertise, we have developed face-to-face and online training to help teachers and other educational professionals develop active, engaged and informed young citizens.

Our sessions, many of which are CPD-accredited, cover topics such as Fundamental British Values, Social Action and SMSC.

‘I’m always amazed at the reach and impact of Young Citizens. Today’s training was inspiring and achievable. I look forward to the implementation.’

TEACHER

Our impact and reach

Young Citizens looks at its impact both through increased practice of citizenship education as well as learning outcomes. All of our learning resources allow for teacher feedback on their pupils' experience through periodic surveys, as well as direct teacher, student and volunteer surveys for our immersive programmes. The outcomes we monitor are guided by our child and young person learning outcomes developed with the support of Pro-Bono Economics in 2018.

100%

of teachers said their pupils were better able to appreciate and respect other people's points of view and debate with others after Experts in Schools.

80%

of secondary schools have used our programmes or teaching materials.

500,000

children and young people benefit from our work each year, either through the teachers we reach or directly in our programmes.⁴

6000

Schools are reached by our resources and programmes annually

100%

of professionals volunteering in Experts in Schools stated that taking part gave them personal satisfaction, greater understanding of young people, and a way to contribute to society positively.

91%

of the students strongly agreed with the statement: 'I would be interested in doing something similar again in the future'.

93%

of educators feel confident about delivering social action with children and young people after taking part in our programmes.

1,000

volunteers are mobilised each year from law, media, politics and economics.

865

organisations directly benefitted from our immersive programmes or training in 2021/22

16,000

primary teachers have been trained by our team over the past decade.

87%

of students had a better understanding of how the legal system works as a result of our resources.

300,000

children and young people have been a part of our social action programmes in the past 20 years.

⁴ For each single teaching resource download, we assume an average of 30 pupils will benefit. For whole-school programmes developing teacher practice, we assume the average student population for either a primary or secondary school, as appropriate, will benefit.



Our five-year strategy

Where will we be in five years?

By 2028, we want to build on our role as a spark organisation offering great starting points for more to benefit from and engage with citizenship education.

Young Citizens will be driving active citizenship forward by making citizenship education accessible, connected, relevant and championed.

In five years we will:

- ▶ Be the go-to active citizenship charity where beneficiaries and stakeholders come to start their journey to engage with our citizenship education offer, work with us as an expert enabling partner or see a 'Map' to be signposted to our Partnership Network of related providers
- ▶ Have expanded our programmes that see communities and institutions linked to children and young people, bringing citizenship learning to life, whilst seeing that the leaders of companies, public bodies and institutions are investing in citizenship learning as well as embedding youth views into their work
- ▶ See that citizenship education is driven by young beneficiaries as well as educators as active agents in shaping learning interventions, whilst sharing our evolving practice and evidence with international networks, policy makers and mission-linked organisations
- ▶ Have used our evidence and research work to map a citizenship framework for how we help communicate and distill the benefits of citizenship education for young people, through the skills and experiences they can gain, working with cross-sector partners towards a national benchmark that sees citizenship education and civic learning as a pillar in twenty-first-century UK education



Active Citizenship (verb)

"A participation and skills approach to citizenship education"

Citizenship education is not just something we learn, it is some we do. Active citizenship is a participation and skills approach to citizenship education. It provides children and young people with practical experiences of citizenship in the world around them.

Aim 1 – Accessible

Increased accessibility of citizenship education that better reaches underserved groups

We know from our work that children and young people from less affluent and systemically disadvantaged backgrounds are often underserved in citizenship education. This links with these groups being underserved by societal systems as schools and communities struggle to cope with pupil absence, lack of funding, and under-employment. This can leave citizenship education as an afterthought. Studies show background or circumstance also correlates with a young person's civic and political engagement including in terms of voter turnout, interest in local government and participation in community action.^{5,6} In schools, those from less affluent backgrounds are less likely to receive lessons linked to political literacy or participate in school opportunities.^{7,8} We will help counteract this by concentrating on how we reach and prioritise these audiences in our work.

We will do this by:

1.1 Targeting higher-need state schools and communities. Although our services will remain open to schools and young people of a variety of profiles, our internal efforts will focus on identifying and serving those groups that traditionally struggle to take up our services or benefit from quality citizenship education.

1.2 Ensuring each of our services has a more accessible starting point. Competitions or full lesson suites aren't always the best options for stretched educators. We will spotlight and expand our easiest-access materials in each programme area, through 'spark' sessions, assemblies and similar, so even more educators and young people feel they have an 'approachable' starting point for citizenship education.

1.3 Increasing our teacher training offer in areas of expertise. In addition to practicable tools, we know that many educators need extra support to engage with citizenship and related subjects like fundamental British values. We will expand our training offer for a wide range of educators, particularly those who are not qualified in citizenship teaching. Along the way, we will assess the gaps within the education sector to understand where we can provide needed support.

1.4 Innovating to reach beyond mainstream education. Our national school network is key to creating systemic change, but we recognise the importance of reaching beyond those mainstream networks if we are going to support underserved groups. We will identify gaps and high-return projects, using learnings from past projects and new pilots, to focus on sustainable areas where we can broaden access to citizenship education.

⁵ [The Civic Engagement and Social Action - Community Life Survey 2021-22](#) found that 'those living in the least deprived areas showed higher engagement (46%) than those in the most deprived areas (37%).'

⁶ Data from the [Electoral Commission \(2022\)](#) shows that 'People from black Caribbean and black African communities were the least likely to vote in the UK'.

⁷ Research by [Dr Jan German Janmaat and Professor Bryony Hoskins \(2021\)](#) found that there is a class-based divide in young people's access to political activities such as student councils and mock elections at school.

⁸ Weinberg, 2022. 'On several activities, maintained schools serving affluent student populations are more likely to offer democratic education than those with higher levels of deprivation.'

Aim 2 – Connected

Opportunities that connect young people to communities and institutions and bring learning to life

As a charity we have long prioritised citizenship education that goes beyond just subject knowledge to understanding how it works in practice; knowing who makes decisions and how; and uncovering the broader system of societal structures with which young people can engage to make change. This is achieved through a range of opportunities, from our Mock Trials Competitions supported by hundreds of legal professionals, to our youth-led social action projects where children design and lead community initiatives. We are proud to spearhead interventions that make it possible to connect these groups and mobilise professionals to engage with citizenship education. In return, these organisations and leaders have the chance to both invest in and learn from the next generation, whilst bringing youth voice back into their work.

We will do this by:

2.1 Expanding our programmes that engage professionals and institutions. We are already a go-to partner for our skills-based volunteering programmes that allow legal, economic and media professionals to take part in inspiring student workshops as experts. We will take these frameworks, like Experts in Schools, into new sectors and industries so more young people and schools can benefit from this model of learning.

2.2 Equipping more educators to support youth-led social action, especially those who may be less likely to engage. We want all children and young people from an early age to see the value in contributing to society and to believe they have the power to make a difference. Our youth-led community and social action frameworks are proven to increase empathy, community investment and resilience in children and young people. We aim to secure further funding that enables us to expand reach and inspire many more educators, especially in areas of high disengagement or need, and to utilise the power of youth-led action to strengthen communities and build connections.

2.3 Convening 'best practice' forums and steering groups to enable joined-up approaches between partners. Young Citizens has been fortunate to help influence practice in the citizenship sector but we believe we can do even more by formalising activities that bring together our network of partners. We will maximise this position as an educational expert and convening body by setting up best-practice groups and steering groups. These will include corporate partners, regulatory bodies and governmental partners. Over time, we will look to create a collective agenda for how these institutions can be more inclusive, influence major issues in citizenship and have a positive impact on society.

Aim 3 – Relevant

Ensure young people are included in shaping and value citizenship education

As one of the original advocates of citizenship education we contributed to the influential Crick Report in 1998, and went on to embed, shape and protect citizenship as a subject in the curriculum. Now, instead of studying young people's educational needs and responding, we want to ensure the practice of citizenship education involves them. This means involving children and young people in shaping our services; deciding where we invest to expand services; and understanding how we can demonstrate the wider value citizenship provides to help them thrive now and into adulthood. In doing so, we will continue to guide partners on how we can have the most impact for our young people in a rapidly changing and diverse society.

We will do this by:

3.1 Launching a Youth Consultation project to expand understanding of how young people respond to and see citizenship learning in their lives. We need to do more than just talk to young people about the big issues facing society and democracy today. We need to see it from their perspective, listen closely to their views and understand how they conceptualise what we traditionally call 'active citizenship'. First, we will focus on a series of roundtable discussions to put complex questions of democracy and citizenship to young people e.g. climate and institutional trust. We will consult young participants alongside partners and subject experts who also want to learn what the next generation see as 'quality' citizenship education.

3.2 Establishing a sustainable feedback loop between the charity's services and our key beneficiaries. In addition to having young trustees and monitoring the impact of services with children and young people, we want to ensure that the inclusion of their voices in our work is more proactive. Through the Youth Consultation project in Years 1 and 2 of our strategy, we will investigate the best way to incorporate their inclusion into the design and delivery of our work. Where possible, new programmes will be produced in collaboration with the young people themselves.

3.3 Cultivating renewed research on our priority areas. Young Citizens has always advocated for and shared practice for developing quality citizenship education with members of parliament, policymakers, specialist advisory groups in the UK and EU. We are committed to continuing this local and international work, particularly on the value of citizenship education starting young, and developing skills and specialist projects on themes from our areas of expertise, such as the role of institutions and building values.

Aim 4 – Championed

Drive investment into citizenship education through evidencing, convening and advocating

Whether you call it democratic or civic education, or look at it through the lens of political or media literacy, our work over the decades has shown that citizenship education can provide an essential set of skills for every young person. We want to build more evidence to convey this message to increase investment into our work and the sector. We will advocate for and demonstrate its role in developing life, employability and participation skills that benefit children and young people, their communities and our society.

We will do this by:

4.1 Investing in streamlined data systems to cultivate a clear impact story. We have benefited from a robust monitoring and evaluation approach for many years, thanks to support from Pro-Bono Economics and independent evaluations. We track a large amount of engagement data from our many services that will benefit from being streamlined to demonstrate progress and clarity on the outcomes created. This includes demonstrating the benefits of 'starting young' and the various skills gained through our services that have transferable benefits to one's career or social outcomes. We will identify 'hero' statistics and top-line impact to allow a broad range of audiences to understand the power of citizenship learning experiences.

4.2 Improving buy-in of citizenship education at leadership levels. Like so many educational organisations we often have individual 'champions' inside our schools and institutions who make this work happen. However, when they move on or petition to do more, we realise decision-making sits with senior leadership teams that must collectively understand its importance. We will use our communication activities, events and advocacy work to target headteachers and senior business leaders to raise awareness of the benefits they receive, the urgency and value of citizenship education.

4.3 Championing a citizenship education benchmark for children and young people. Over the coming years, we want to demonstrate that citizenship education fosters transferable, tangible skills and aptitudes that help young people to thrive in life after school, including in their careers. We will explore existing skills frameworks and mapping the benefits of those acquired through citizenship learning to demonstrate their value to young learners, educators, families and institutions. We aim to use this framework to create a coalition with the sector and agree a benchmark that could be embedded as a pillar of modern British education. There should be a shared vision of what active citizenship looks like and why it is an asset to every young person.

What are we working towards?

Our five-year strategy will contribute to achieving these four long-term impact goals identified in our theory of change:

1.

All children and young people are educated to be active citizens.

In order for communities to flourish, members of society need to acknowledge their rights and responsibilities. Children and young people need opportunities to understand and practise these.

What it looks like:

- A rich citizenship education that develops the skills, knowledge and confidence that young people need to be active citizens and is linked to the world beyond the classroom
- Citizenship embedded as a part of standard curriculum from a young age
- Education that is relevant and linked to the world beyond the classroom

2.

Children and young people are active in shaping their community and world for the better.

We believe that a thriving democracy reflects the needs and views of young people and is one in which they are enabled to exchange ideas, address issues that are important to them and participate in creating social change.

What it looks like:

- Young people understand the range of institutions (and the roles within them) that shape democracy and society
- They are empowered to act on issues of importance to them
- They participate in formal and/or informal democratic processes

3.

Children and young people feel belonging in their communities.

We believe the strength of a community depends on children and young people feeling included, with a sense of ownership of their world around them, where no-one left behind. We invest in cultivating shared values alongside respect for diversity.

What it looks like:

- Young people demonstrate empathy and understanding towards others, and are able to find common ground
- They make connections within their communities and their communities with them
- They can express their views and differences eloquently
- They see the value and importance in shaping their local community

4.

Institutions represent the people they serve.

We believe a thriving democracy requires institutions, and the people who work in them, to be cognisant of the issues facing society and the people they serve. We want institutions to be more accessible to all.

What it looks like:

- Institutions proactively engage, and are influenced by, the needs and priorities of young people in their decision making
- They invest in their communities and young people and so understand how best to galvanise others
- They reflect the diversity of the communities they serve, both in terms of who they employ and how they think

Light the spark with us!

Educators

Calling all teachers, educators and youth leaders! Join the thousands of individuals creating learning experiences to nurture active citizens. Get involved:



DOWNLOAD Draw on over 150 flexible lesson plans, assemblies and tools covering the world's biggest topics, from climate change to cultural diversity. Subscribe to our portal to access these and more as our library grows each year: youngcitizens.org/resources



DELIVER Our suite of immersive learning experiences and events offering skills, knowledge and inspiration for young minds. Find out what programmes are on offer here: youngcitizens.org/programmes



DEVELOP Take advantage of our training sessions introducing key concepts in active citizenship and the SMSC Quality Mark: youngcitizens.org/training



Partnerships

Our work relies on passionate funders and partners. This helps us keep our work free or at a reduced cost to ensure more young people benefit. We offer a myriad of ways to support our work:



VOLUNTEER: Mobilise your staff to engage in socially responsible, youth-facing activities where they can make a real difference through skills-based volunteering opportunities – all whilst developing their own skillset.



SPONSOR OR FUND: You can bolster democratic society by investing in our charity, sponsoring a campaign or championing a specific area of citizenship. The charity is investing in thematic areas that allow us to reach children and young people at scale and major donors who want to help us shape our practice over time.



LAUNCH: We regularly collaborate with partners to design then deliver cutting-edge campaigns, programme innovations, collaborative research with our experts and innovative pilots that pioneer active citizenship and respond to key social issues.

Find out more by contacting our Partnerships team at kirsty.robertson@youngcitizens.org



Our supporters

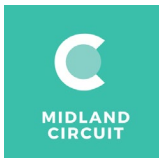
Our funders and partners make our work possible. They include grant-giving organisations, public sector bodies, corporate partners, donors, delivery collaborators and pro-bono partners that are committed to helping children and young people thrive as young citizens in our communities.

We also work with commissioning partners, who fund innovative projects and research at the charity to further our impact.

Read more about how our funders help us transform our work and impact.

Immersive experiences

The Bar Mock Trial Competition has been running for over 30 years offering the largest legal learning programme for school-age students across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. This is made possible by support and funding from the following partners:



Investing in our youngest citizens

Providing over £1.8m in funding in the past decade, Pears Foundation support has been core to ensuring primary schools benefit from our unique programmes and resources. Recent Pears and #iwill funding enabled us to extend our primary social action programme across the UK and, in the wake of the pandemic, enabled us to provide our resource library to all primary schools free of charge.



Expanding our industry engagement

FTI Consulting has been an enabling partner seeing our charity expand its corporate programming offer for over 10 years. As a part of their commitment to citizenship, they helped us expand our model of Experts in Schools to bring economic and media literacy to life through programmes with industry professionals.



Making the law accessible to all

Young Citizens see over 50,000 young people a year benefit from public legal education through inspiring and relevant lessons from young years to college age. This has been thanks to long-standing funding from The Law Society. This has been complemented by a growing roster of corporate partners who help us keep our libraries up to date and release new inspiring resources.

Supported by



ALLEN & OVERY

Mishcon de Reya

Multiplying impact

The Rank Foundation invests in communities by developing leaders and nurturing enterprise. Since 2020, Young Citizens has benefitted from capital and leadership grants that have allowed the charity to improve educator experiences by relaunching a more user-friendly website and develop our volunteer journey. We also took part in the Time To Shine leadership scheme and are an active member of their grantee community, Ranknet.



Our full range of services are made possible by a network of key partners who support us through sponsorship and grants to reach children and young people in targeted communities each year:



With thanks for grants and/or in-kind support of our core infrastructure, team development and strategic development:



We are also members of...



Thank you to our wider network of recent funders, delivery partners and collaborators for their support:

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With thanks to our founder Lord (Andrew) Phillips, our president, trustees, ambassadors and advisors for their ongoing support.

To find out more about our governance and key roles please visit our website at www.youngcitizens.org/about-us.



Young Citizens is a national charity lighting the spark of active citizenship among children and young people across the UK. Established in 1989, we provide skills, knowledge and enrichment to over half a million children each year through a dynamic range of topical citizenship resources and immersive civic learning experiences. We work to equip educators with the tools to offer inspiring citizenship education, and with a range of partners from law firms to government departments to bring citizenship to life.

For more information visit www.youngcitizens.org

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