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CULTURE GUIDES



Lifelong
Learning
Programme



Voluntary Arts



Establishing and facilitating Culture Guide activities



Local partnership teams

Key recommendation:

The most successful Culture Guides projects were supported by strong local partnership teams made up of representatives of a mix of organisations, both cultural and social.

Do you think it's important to have a local team overseeing the direction of the project?

Who do you think should be on that group? What range of experiences would be useful?

Recruiting Culture Guide volunteers

Key recommendation:

The projects that had greater early success were the ones where the organisations represented on the local partnership teams had access to existing volunteers and/or groups of socially marginalised end users.

What are the advantages of different ways of recruiting volunteers?

- Those already known to you
- Those known to local partner organisations

Planning and decision making

Key recommendation:

It can be fruitful to allow the Culture Guides to set the parameters of the project (locations, topics, end users) themselves, but sometimes this is too broad and they are unable to make decisions.

In which cases would it be better to make the decisions within the partnership team, and which cases would it be better to allow the volunteers to make their own decisions about the activities, venues, end-user groups etc?



Pilot courses and other training

Key recommendation:

Provide information to the Culture Guides at the outset, about what the role entails, what is expected of them in terms of time commitment and standards, and also practical considerations like health and safety, personal boundaries and incident reporting.

What are the most useful topics for training Culture Guides?

What is the best way of instilling in Culture Guides the ethos of the project?

Management and support of volunteers

Key recommendation:

Ensure that communication between all the stakeholders, Culture Guides and local partnership teams remains frequent and of high quality, to prevent them from losing interest and a sense of ownership in the project.

Who is the best person to manage the Culture Guide volunteers? Can management be delegated?

What are the main principles when managing volunteers on a day-to-day basis?



Reaching end users

- ▶ What's the best way of finding groups of end-users?
- ▶ What needs to be taken into consideration when first approaching groups of end users?

Running Culture Guide activities

- ▶ What's the best way to select the activities you run? The preference of the end-users, the Culture Guides, or a more strategic decision by the local partnership team?
- ▶ What do you need to consider when running the activities?



Summary

Do you think it's important to have a local team overseeing the direction of the project?

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What are the advantages of different ways of recruiting volunteers?

In which cases would it be better to make the decisions within the partnership team, and which cases would it be better to allow the volunteers to make their own decisions about the activities, venues, end-user groups etc?

What are the most useful topics for training Culture Guides?

What is the best way of instilling in Culture Guides the ethos of the project?

Who is the best person to manage the Culture Guide volunteers? Can management be delegated?

What are the main principles when managing volunteers on a day-to-day basis?

What's the best way of finding groups of end-users?

What needs to be taken into consideration when first approaching groups of end users?

What's the best way to select the activities you run? The preference of the end-users, the Culture Guides, or a more strategic decision by the local partnership team?