

Working in partnership with AM Training

Could you be a partner with AM Training?

- Do you hold a database of people who might benefit from training in volunteer management skills?
- Are you a beacon in promoting good volunteer management practice in your area?

...then maybe it's time to contact us and discuss some partnership working.

The challenge and the way ahead

We aim to provide high quality courses which stand alone or can be taken together, sometimes in conjunction with courses organised by other training providers, as a professional, accredited training in volunteer management. Training provision in the voluntary sector suffers from chronic short-termism. Time limited funding is granted, a training programme is developed, then, just as it begins to take wings, the funding runs out.

Our solution is twofold. Firstly, to develop training partnerships which maximise the available resources. For example, the very successful partnership with Volunteering England has raised the profile of our Volunteer Management Professional Training Programme. The programme has benefited hugely from promotion through VE's national publication Volunteering Magazine, and from the support of VE staff, in particular Barbara Regnier, Director of Education and Training.

We have also made links with some of the leading local volunteer involving organisations, for example Sunderland and Ealing Volunteer Centres; Lancaster VIC; and ViSTA in Somerset, all of whom have been able to use their local networks to promote the courses. They had the knowledge and contacts to be able to find venues and provide lunch at a competitive price.

Secondly we have maintained the principle of sustainability by ensuring that the fees for courses are set at a level which covers the costs of that course. This diversifies our funding ensuring our position as a long-term training provider. Our long termism affords us the ability to build sustainable training partnerships and provide enduring progression routes to qualifications for our learners.

We shall continue to seek and develop mutually beneficial national and local partnerships. We welcome discussions with any other agencies who, like us, are committed to providing sustainable, high quality training for those hardworking, conscientious and undervalued people who manage one of the most precious commodities the UK has: volunteers.

Adam May, Partner AM Training
From "Here For The Long Haul" AMT Strategy Development Document, Jan 2005

Being an AM Training Host Partner

To date, we have three models for host partnership working:

1. Hosting our Volunteer Management Professional Training Programme courses locally, as Sunderland Volunteer Centre is doing.
2. Hosting shorter courses adapted from our Volunteer Management Professional Training Programme for delivery to grass roots organisations, perhaps fairly newly formed agencies with fewer or perhaps no paid staff. This is the model Lancaster VIC has adopted.
3. Inviting us to write and deliver a training programme specifically tailored to one organisation's needs. This could be anything from a one-day event to a comprehensive training programme. We have recently worked with The National Trust on a full training programme.

Examples

Sunderland VC hosts the Volunteer Forum representing members of all the local volunteer involving agencies in the area. The forum members decided that they wanted to have the same training as AM Training offers on our Professional Programme. They bought in AM Training trainers, found a free venue through local contacts, and arranged a wonderful lunch provided by a local catering organisation run as a social enterprise for people with learning disabilities. Using their database and local networks they were able to ensure that all twenty places were filled and so keep the course fee low for participants.

Lancaster Volunteer Information Centre established links with the local Adult Education College. The college has funding to reach out to the wider community and could see that working with the local voluntary sector could achieve this. They provide the venue, refreshments, lunch and a small subsidy per participant. This enables Lancaster VIC to realise their vision of 'high quality, affordable training, delivered locally' and they have now established a comprehensive training programme of one-day courses that is provided to local volunteer managers at a cost of only £25 per participant, per day.