

The University of Manchester
The Manchester
Museum

MANCHESTER
1824



In Touch Volunteer Programme – A Partnership Programme

Breaking Down Social Isolation &
Building Confidence



The Manchester Museum and IWM North



In Touch Volunteer Training Programme

- Collaborative project between the Museum and IWM North
- Funded by Heritage Lottery Fund for 3 years
- Recruits specific target groups
- Uses museum knowledge and resources...staff and collections
- Work in Partnership with Salford City College



Aims of the Programme

- Promote life long learning
- Diversify the workforce
- Provide direct access to collections
- Develop confidence, self-esteem and improve quality of life
- Support individuals to 'step on' into further learning, training or employment



Successes include...

For the Museums

- Improved partnership working
- New audiences
- Increased direct access to collections
- Staff development
- Diverse workforce

For the Participants

- Develop transferable skills
- Increase confidence and self-esteem
- Opportunity to develop social networks
- Training and learning for future employability

'I've got more confidence to talk to people, being around people and feeling comfortable with it. Working within the Museum which I have never done before – you do see the place in different light and as a volunteer its not as daunting as being a full time member of staff'

(volunteer, November 07)

Challenges



- Integrating a new volunteer programme
- Staff awareness Senior management 'buy-in'
- Recognising limit to our expertise/offer... 'we're not social workers...'
- Funding
- Partnership / communication

Contacts

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