

VDS, Learning & Practice Development

Volunteer Knowledge
Working with Volunteers
August 2007

Name of Organisation

Canongate Youth Project



Why did you decide to go for Investing in Volunteers?

We have a long history of successfully working in partnership with volunteers and recognised the value of national standards. We wanted to be part of this.

What benefits have you found from working towards Investing in Volunteers?

The process was particularly valuable in getting us to thoroughly review all aspects of policy, practice and paperwork. We feel that as a result, a number of improvements have been made.

How did the assessment work in your organisation?

Very well. The volunteers who took part in the assessment appeared to thoroughly enjoy it. The experience was enhanced by Liz Law who was extremely courteous and respectful towards everyone. On receiving Liz's feedback there was a tremendous "feel good" buzz about the Project.

5 Practical tips you would give another organisation working towards Investing in Volunteers

1. Don't re-invent the wheel – VDS and the local volunteer centre have good guidelines and templates.
2. Make sure that everyone is involved in the process – it's no good if it becomes one person's pet project.
3. Uses the consultants appropriately, don't be shy about sharing weaknesses and gaps.
4. Enjoy the experience.

What training/learning did you require to help you meet the standards and where did you source it? E.g. VDS, local Volunteer Centre, local college

Following discussion with the Director of Edinburgh Volunteer Centre there was an acknowledgement that CYP had a wealth of experience in volunteer management and that basic training was not required. I feel however that we made good use of Nick, our consultant and benefited from his contributions.