

3c4

Guest Contributors

Do

Invite guests into the health or social care building to meet one or more people who are using the service and perhaps undertake an activity with them.

Story

Museum staff visited one of the day centres to do an oral history project and invited people to talk about their memories and experiences of psychiatric services. This acted as a link between the museum staff and people in the day centre, and in turn led to further involvement in the museum for individuals. *(Guy 2001, p39-41)*

As part of modernising their day opportunities, one local authority has given a staff member the role of identifying financial assistance available to make community buildings more accessible.

Hints & Hazards

Guest contributors may enable people to get to know the contributor or learn about an activity. Inviting a large number of people to use rooms or participate in coffee mornings may build relationships if the people receiving support and other citizens collaborate on joint projects on equal terms. This strategy shades into 'Group in a Community Centre' (3c7) if the majority of the building is used by other community groups. Merely renting space to community groups at times when the building is otherwise empty is unlikely to achieve any meaningful connections.

Allowing others access to the building might reduce the sense of ownership or safety in the space unless people share in the decision to open the doors. Inviting guests in is one of the few strategies open to people in locked units.