

7b2

Arrange the Activity

Do

Select an activity (which might be social or practical) within the setting and help the person to engage in it.

Story

Prospective volunteers discuss with a co-ordinator their interests and preferences for a placement. The co-ordinator identifies suitable placements from a list of participating groups and organisations and arranges an initial visit and the details of the placement. This includes the specific things that the person does at the placement.

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Hints & Hazards

Some people prefer to have someone else arrange things for them, but will join in with the activity. This can be frustrating for the member of staff who wants the person to do both tasks from day one. Sometimes another person in the community is the best person to arrange activities. For example, a staff member at the Jobcentre or a friend may have more knowledge of local employers than a social worker.

Some settings appear to have a fixed set of things that people have to join in with if they attend. Effective supporters can often negotiate with people in the setting so that the

person does some of the activities rather than all of them, or begins with some and gradually takes on more (see 7b3 'Partial Participation').

Arranging activities can be very helpful for people who find choosing stressful but the supporter should aim to increase the person's range of choice. There is a danger that people in the community will see the person being directed in the first few sessions and assume that this is the right way to relate to the person at all times.