

CASE STUDY 5

PEOPLE'S HISTORY MUSEUM

MANCHESTER

Why take part?

The museum had recently started a volunteer programme and were encouraging volunteers of all ages to come forward. They were also keen for young people to have more involvement with the museum and thought that Takeover Day was a great opportunity to test how they could do more.

Who took part?

One 16 year-old. The Year 12 student, who wanted to study History at university, had recently got in contact with the museum about volunteering so this was an ideal way to kick-start her involvement with the museum.

What did they do?

The young person was invited to take over the role of Learning Officer for the day, researching and creating a new resource for 14-18 year olds and learning about the different departments within the museum.

How did they spend their time on the day?

- Introduction to the museum and its organisational structure, the role of the Learning Officer and meeting other departments within the museum.
- Independent research into the collection, visit to the archives and drafting a self-led trail for young visitors.
- Tour of one of the new exhibitions and learning about how exhibitions are planned and developed.
- Review session with Learning Officer about the day.
- Helping to set up the opening event for a new exhibition to take place that evening.

What happened next?

The Learning Officer has kept in contact with the young person and since Takeover Day she has started volunteering at the museum at weekends and in school holidays. The museum was very impressed with how she researched and developed the trail and have encouraged her to continue working on the resource that she started on Takeover Day.

Although just one person participated in Takeover Day at PHM, the ripple effect is apparent, with the young person returning with her Mum to the exhibition opening night and talking about her experiences with her peers.

'My friends have been curious about what I've been up to as they have not really heard about anyone doing this sort of thing before.'

'I've been quite a few times to the museum recently and wanted to get involved. I've never really understood how museums function or people's various roles. I contacted the museum to see if I could get involved and they told me about Takeover Day. I would love to come back and volunteer.'

Takeover Day Participant

