



Passport to your future

Your future, your hands

How it was suggested the property ran the Taster day.

It was recommended that the Taster day would run for 3 to 4 hours. This would allow two half day sessions enabling more people to attend. Some properties did a half day during the week and then repeated it at the weekend, giving more people the opportunity to come.

The attendees were shown a Powerpoint presentation about the NT and the project. This was a generic Powerpoint and was sent to each property by the Programme Manager.

Attendees were then given the chance to try out things practically.

If you have somebody with for example, Downs's syndrome and you tell them about the placement; if you then take them into an interview situation and ask them why they want the job they won't be able to tell you. However if you let them try the role out practically they will be able to tell you very enthusiastically why they want the role.

We therefore use the Taster day to let people see that the NT is an organization that would be great to work for, but we also let people try out the role.

People applied for the Taster day through the Passport to your Future web site. We asked for their name and how they had found out about it.

If we had more applicants than places, we invited the people who had found out about the opportunity through the partner organizations we had worked with first, then we asked people who had come through other channels and the NT web site.

If a property did not have enough spaces to invite everybody, they sent people free passes to visit the property in the week before or the week after the Taster day.

“The Taster day consisted of a range of activities to illustrate the spectrum of activities in the garden, including mattocking out a tree, weeding, mulching and ringing young plants, and a tour of the garden. Throughout there was an opportunity to chat to NT staff and volunteers, as well as the other interested candidates. I felt encouraged by the welcoming nature of the staff, the beauty of the workplace, the balance of physical and intellectual stimulation, as well as the backgrounds of the other applicants, some of whom had similar stories to my own. I left with certainty that the scheme was suitable for me”.

“We started the Taster day by playing People Bingo. This broke the ice and then we did a washing line activity. People hung up things that described: ‘What they were most nervous about today’; ‘Were they worried about working for the National Trust’ and any other concerns or worries. These concerns were then addressed during the day”. Line Manager.