

Fit for the Future?

Feedback from VSA & HIC event held 12 February 2008

In total 83 people attended this event at the Kindle Centre. 3 were either special guests or speakers, 16 were HIC staff or attending as VSA Reps, 9 were stall holders from non-HIC organisations.

There were 38 delegates at the afternoon session and 20 for the evening session.

33 Feedback forms were returned, 22 from the afternoon session (57% return), 10 from the evening session (50% return), and 1 from someone who attended both sessions. As with all surveys, not everyone completed all questions and some were left blank because people did not stay for all of the sessions.

Feedback given using the table below was as follows:

Please rank the four workshops	Presentation			Content		
	Please tick ☺	☹	⊖	☺	☹	⊖
Funding Fitness	25	5	0	18	8	0
Making ICT work for you	20	8	0	18	8	0
Effective volunteering	19	10	2	14	12	1
Fit for purpose, group health check	15	12	4	10	14	1

Summary of feedback

What did you like most about this day? Networking, finding out where to get help and assistance, funding, putting faces to names, the stalls, ICT, 'All packed into two hours', intimate size of workshop (evening comment), 'no hanging about', well planned, discussions with professionals, availability of evening session, Lifted our spirits to get going again.

What do you think could be improved? Acoustics were mentioned seven times! Other comments were longer workshops, more information about stalls, more information about the event beforehand, communication, where to go when you arrived, earlier starting time, more handouts, smaller rooms, better presentation & opportunity to hear practical examples, more networking.

Did the workshops meet your expectations? 18 responses said they did. Other comments were: Much more than, so much info, Excellent!; some did some didn't; not sure what we expected; partially; no apart from ICT it was too basic; less workshops, No as there was no flexibility to meet my needs (afternoon comment), Health check did not fit my group, not quite relevant to my field of work; shame time was limited; not too long; kept to time & information was specific.

Will the workshop materials be useful to you when you return to your organisation?: 23 said Yes! Seven said some of the information would be useful. Only one person said that it would not be particularly useful.

Were your questions answered to your satisfaction?: 29 said yes! Two commented on lack of time to ask any questions, one that they would follow up with individual organisations later, and another said that the *'answers were not always what they wanted to hear'*.

Has the day given you the confidence to apply your learning in your organisation?: 25 answered yes to this question, one responded possibly.

What will you do differently in your organisation as result of today? Think was mentioned four times. Other responses were: Contact the volunteer centre to see if there are local volunteers, look up websites, be more confident in new job; use VA to help; research further on internet; look for help; pass on volunteer stuff; look at quality standard; review activities; take different approach to finding volunteers; recruit new committee members; know where to get advice, share contents of course with organisation; It has been a good check for the organisation.

Any other comments: Range of people attending much too broad. Impossible to make it relevant for people with such wide range of experience; Choice of workshop is needed, why no inspiration or at least case studies to interest participants; there were also three thank you s and three comments about usefulness of information gained; one regret that could not stay longer and one comment that it was a pity Chris Bull could not stay longer.

Please tell us about any further speakers/workshops you would be interested in or topics that we can cover at future assemblies:

Legal aspects of volunteering, tendering and commissioning

Business Plans

Full cost recovery- practical look at how different people do it rather than basic principle to gain ideas and compare approaches

How to raise profile of club to local schools and businesses

Sustainability

Sustaining a business set up through funding

Computer training workshops

How to use ICT effectively

A walk through grant application process

Effective marketing and promotion

How to prepare press releases, and posters etc

How to recruit volunteers

Venue: 16 people rated Kindle as good or excellent, 2 as ok, 4 commented on the good parking and central location, 3 said it was poor or 'odd' and 15 mentioned the poor acoustics.

Catering: Feedback on the catering was generally good or excellent with several very favourable comments about the healthy options and the gluten free choices. One person, referring to the nibbles, commented that it was 'unhealthy for people to dip their hands into what the other person may eat'. Another person did not like the use of plastic mugs for cold drinks. One person thought that the food should have been served in main hall to encourage networking.

Report compiled by Susan Black, VSA Coordinator