Empower and Engage: Training for Leaders of Volunteers in Heritage Venues

We are delighted to announce that Heritage Volunteering Group North West (**HVG NW)** network has successfully secured funding from **Museum Development North** to deliver a programme of **four specialist training days** for volunteer managers across the North of England. Through a series of bespoke training sessions, **the programme aims to empower volunteer leaders to enhance the volunteer experience, strengthen organisational capacity, embedding innovative, equitable, and future-focused approaches in volunteer leadership.** Each training theme is aligned to the Arts Council England's Investment Principles, ensuring strong sector relevance and best practice.

2026 Training Programme

10 February –Leading with Vision: Shaping the Future of Volunteer Engagement

Investment Principle: Ambition & Quality
Location: Cartwright Hall, Bradford
Bookings: *Now open*, *further details below* – book on Eventbrite here
https://empowerengage1.eventbrite.co.uk

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21 May – Future-Ready: Embracing New Technologies

Investment Principle: Dynamism
Location: Smithills Hall, Bolton

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8 October – Creating a Culture of Belonging

Investment Principle: Inclusivity and Relevance
Location: Liverpool Victoria Gallery and Museum

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2 December – Inspiring Change: Environmental Action

Investment Principle: Environmental Responsibility
Location: Manchester Museum

- **Each training day has 30 places available for people from museums and heritage organisations in the North of England**
- **One participant per organisation** may book initially (additional staff may join a month before the event if there are still places).
- **Bookings open three months before each event**, and **bookings are now open for the first event in Bradford**, book via Eventbrite https://empowerengage1.eventbrite.co.uk
- Training is **funded by MD North with no cost to participants** with lunch provided, participants will need to arrange their own travel.
- A **travel bursary** is available to cover the cost of train travel to support people to attend from smaller organisations with limited resources. Please apply when booking.

Leading with Vision: Shaping the Future of Volunteer Engagement

10 February
10:30am – 4:30pm
Cartwright Hall
Bradford

This event will empower volunteer leaders to think strategically about the role of volunteers in advancing your museum's mission. Blending inspiration with guidance, we'll explore how to set meaningful goals, motivate and support diverse volunteer teams, and connect everyday practice to a wider strategic vision.

Through tours of the Turner Prize exhibition, conversations, real examples from local programmes, and opportunities to learn from each other, you'll discover emerging approaches, fresh ideas, and simple tools to take straight back to your organisation. Whether you're looking to modernise your offer, build senior management support, or simply reconnect with the bigger picture of why volunteers matter, this session will give you space to think, talk, experiment, and return to your work with renewed confidence and clarity.

The training is delivered by **Gethyn Williams**, who has extensive experience helping organisations enhance their volunteer programmes. www.gethynwilliams.net
Sonja Kielty, Volunteer Manager at Bradford Museums and Galleries, will also share experiences from volunteering initiatives including UK City of Culture, Young Ambassadors, and the English for Everyone Museum Pathway to Volunteering.

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Set high-impact goals for volunteer programmes
- Inspire and motivate volunteer teams
- Lead innovation and continuous improvement
- Align volunteer programmes with long-term institutional strategy

Join us in Bradford for a practical, energising session designed to help volunteer managers reimagine ambitious, high-quality volunteer engagement in today's heritage and cultural sector. Book here - https://empowerengage1.eventbrite.co.uk

museum development md north

Heritage Volunteering Group North West

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Bradford District Museums & Galleries

Supported using public funding by Arts Council England

Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture