

MISPA (Manchester institute of Sport and Physical Activity)



Latest News Release

Legalising Volunteers in Manchester

MISPA has facilitated an important event supporting and enabling volunteer managers in Manchester to improve and up skill their work in the community.

On 19th September, MISPA hosted a seminar at MMU's Geoffrey Manton building entitled, '[Volunteers and the Law](#)', for more than 60 representatives of the local volunteering community. Sponsored by the Economic and Social Research Council, the event encouraged the transfer of information, skills and knowledge concerning the legal aspects of volunteer management.

A highly experienced facilitator, Jo Ward, Director of Glossop Volunteer Centre, led the day taking participants through the vast and complex subject area. Using real life issues and examples she was able to challenge perceptions, answers queries and provide tools that participants can use in their daily work.

Bernard Clarke, Chair of Volunteering Manchester described the event, "*This is the second seminar we have provided this year and again more than 100 people wanted to attend. Whilst we are delighted that there is such an interest in the subject, it shows just how little support is being offered to those who desperately need volunteers to provide their services in the local community*".

Since 2006 MISPA has played a key role in identifying the need for a central volunteer support service in the Manchester City area. As the only major City in the UK without a service Manchester has suffered from duplication or effort and lost good practice amongst the 4,000 not-for-profit groups that use volunteers in the City. Volunteering Manchester was formed in 2007, with the guidance of MISPA and other agencies from the local volunteering community, to develop good practice support for volunteer involving organisations.

The organisers collected a detailed questionnaire from delegates and will be using the skills of academics in MMU to analyse the volunteer management needs described to influence the development of any support service in the City.

For more information on Volunteering Manchester contact Bernard Clarke, Chair on b.clarke@mmu.ac.uk and to find out more about Economic and Social Research Council visit: www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk