

Community Organiser Post-Residential Training Survey

A) APPLYING TO BECOME A CO

First we'd like to ask you some questions about how you applied to be a trainee community organiser.

Q1.

How did you find out about the trainee community organiser role?

SINGLE CODE

RANDOMISE ORDER

From an existing trainee community organiser
Newspaper advertisement
Online (while searching for jobs)
Online (while browsing)
Through a recruitment agency (including online)
Jobcentre
Word of mouth
Other (specify)

IF ONLINE:

Q1a.

Where online did you find out about the role?

Host organisation website/Facebook/Twitter feed
Community Organiser website/Facebook/Twitter feed
Locality website/Facebook/Twitter feed
RE:generate website/Facebook/Twitter feed
Charity jobs website
Other jobs website
Other charity website
Other online (specify)

Q2.

What motivated you to apply to become a trainee community organiser?

MULTICODE OK

RANDOMISE ORDER

Job searching/needed a job
To work in this particular local area
To work in this particular type of job
To develop new skills
To gain experience of community organising
To help tackle a particular community problem
To gain a qualification in community organising
Seeing the work of other community organisers in my area
Other (specify)

IF MORE THAN ONE SELECTED AT Q2

Q2a

...and what was your main motivation for applying?

SINGLE CODE

Response options: Pull through selected codes from Q2

Q2b

How many host organisations did you apply to?

SINGLE CODE

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5+

Q3.

And why did you apply to the particular organisation that will be your host for the next 51 weeks?

MULTICODE OK

RANDOMISE 1-7

- It has a strong connection to the local area
- I am interested in specific issues in the local area
- I had previously volunteered there
- I am interested in the work of the host organisation
- The host organisation has a good reputation
- It is conveniently located
- I wasn't aware of any other host organisations I could apply to
- I have another connection with the host organisation
- Other (specify)
- No particular reason for applying to specific host

IF MORE THAN ONE SELECTED AT Q3

Q3a

...and what was the main reason you applied to the particular organisation that will be your host for the next 51 weeks?

SINGLE CODE

Response options: Pull through selected codes from Q3

Q3b

Were you already living in the area where you will be working as a trainee community organiser, or did you move there specifically to take up the role?

- Already living there
- Already living near there and did not have to move
- Moved to take up the role
- Other - specify

B) SKILLS

The next few questions ask about your skills and confidence in different areas, and what difference, if any, the residential training you recently attended made to your skills and confidence in these areas.

Please answer as honestly as possible; the aim of these questions is to understand the programme overall, not to judge your performance or attitude. We understand that you are just beginning of 51 weeks of training and we will ask you similar questions again in 10 months and after 18 months to see how things have changed for you.

For the next few questions please think about your *current levels* of understanding and confidence as you begin your 51 week training programme.

Q4.

How much, if at all, would you say you understand each of the following? Please answer on a scale of 0-10, where 0 means you do not understand it at all and 10 means you fully understand it.

RANDOMISE ORDER

The theory of community organising
The Root Solution Learning Matters (RSLM) approach
The role of a trainee community organiser
The role of a Volunteer Community Organiser (VCO)

Q5.

Thinking about the following aspects of the trainee community organiser role, how confident do you currently feel about carrying out each of these activities? Please answer on a scale of 0-10, where 0 means not at all confident and 10 means extremely confident.

RANDOMISE ORDER

Listening
Recruiting VCOs
Encouraging others in the community to participate/take an active role
Helping people to identify fledgling projects
Supporting fledgling projects
Building a local network of engaged people
Establishing the Community Holding Team
Reflecting on my progress throughout the year
Gaining my accreditation
Using digital tools to enhance my offline work

Please base your answers to the next few questions on your levels of skill and confidence *before* you attended the recent community organiser residential training, which is the first part of your 51-week training programme.

Q6.

Before the residential training, how would you have rated your skills in the following areas? Please answer on a scale of 0-10, where 0 means no skills in this area and 10 means highly skilled in this area.

RANDOMISE ORDER WITHIN EACH GROUP

Personal Skills

Planning your own work
Being able to motivate yourself
Managing your time effectively
Responding flexibly to situations as they arise

Communication skills

Speaking to new people
Facilitating group discussions
Understanding body-language
Uncovering people's feelings and opinions
Handling difficult situations

Role specific skills and knowledge

Understanding of confidentiality and data protection rules related to community organising
Understanding of personal safety issues linked to community organising
Ability to use self-reflection to improve your work
Ability to understand trends and patterns from data
Overall understanding of what community organising is

IT skills

Using email
Word processing (typing and editing documents)
Using social media (Facebook, Twitter, Yammer etc)
Excel spreadsheets (creating and editing)
Using smartphones
Web research

Q7.

Before the residential training, how confident, if at all, did you feel about doing each of the following? Please answer on a scale of 0-10, where 0 means not at all confident and 10 means extremely confident.

RANDOMISE ORDER

Talking to new people
Working alone
Leading other people
Motivating other people to do something for themselves
Developing skills in other people
Problem-solving
Using social media and online platforms in work projects
Working with people who come from different backgrounds than you

Please base your answers to the next few questions on your levels of skill and confidence *now*, after having attended the recent community organiser residential training and as you begin your 51 week training programme.

Q8.

Following the residential training, how would you now rate your skills in the following areas? Please answer on a scale of 0-10, where 0 means no skills in this area and 10 means highly skilled in this area.

RANDOMISE ORDER WITHIN EACH BANK

Communication skills

Speaking to new people
Facilitating group discussions
Understanding body-language
Uncovering people's feelings and opinions
Handling difficult situations

Role specific skills and knowledge

Understanding of confidentiality and data protection rules related to community organising
Understanding of personal safety issues linked to community organising
Ability to use self-reflection to improve your work
Ability to understand trends and patterns from data
Overall understanding of what community organising is

Q9.

Following the residential training, how confident, if at all, do you currently feel about doing each of the following? Please answer on a scale of 0-10, where 0 means not at all confident and 10 means extremely confident.

RANDOMISE ORDER

Talking to new people
Working alone
Leading other people
Motivating other people
Developing skills in other people
Problem-solving
Using social media and online platforms in work projects
Working with people who come from different backgrounds than you

Q10.

On balance, how would you personally rate the residential training in terms of...

Style of teaching
The pace at which topics were covered
Demands placed on you (e.g. time, energy)
Providing information relevant to the role
Practising skills relevant to the role
Preparing you for accreditation

ALWAYS LAST:

Overall, how well it prepared you for beginning your role as a trainee community organiser

Responses

Very good
Fairly good
Neither good nor poor
Fairly poor
Very poor
Don't know

Q11.

Which, if any, of the following do you think the residential training should have helped you more with?

MULTICODE OK

RANDOMISE ORDER

Helping me to understand community organising
Helping me to understand the Root Solution Listening Matters (RSLM) approach
Helping me to understand the role of a trainee community organiser
Helping me to understand the role of a Volunteer Community Organiser (VCO)
Providing me with the skills necessary to undertake the trainee community organiser role – specify
Providing me with the knowledge necessary to undertake the trainee community organiser role – specify
Providing me with the knowledge of digital tools to support community organising
Other (specify)
Don't know

IF MORE THAN THREE SELECTED AT Q11

Q11a.

And which two or three are the most important things the residential training should have helped you more with?

Response options: Pull through selected codes from Q11

Q12.

How could the residential training be improved for future trainee community organisers?

WRITE IN

C) VIEWS OF HOST/AREA

This section asks about your host organisation and the area in which you will be organising.

Q13.

How much, if anything, would you say you know about...?

...the organisations and people that have influence in your local area

...the specific patch/neighbourhood you will be working in

...your host organisation and the work it does

A great deal

A fair amount

Not very much

Nothing at all

Not applicable at this time

Don't know

IF A GREAT DEAL OR A FAIR AMOUNT ABOUT THEIR PATCH/NEIGHBOURHOOD

Q14.

What do you expect might be significant challenges in the specific patch/neighbourhood you will be working in?

MULTICODE OK

RANDOMISE

Individuals not wanting to get involved in local community action

Weak sense of community identity

Limited interaction between people from different backgrounds

Crime and anti-social behaviour

Lack of community resources (e.g. facilities)

Lack of networks and associations
Individuals' lack of resources (e.g. money/time)
Damage to the physical environment (e.g. dilapidation/rubbish)
People focusing on problems rather than solutions
Other (specify)
Don't know

IF A GREAT DEAL OR A FAIR AMOUNT ABOUT THEIR PATCH/NEIGHBOURHOOD
Q15.

What do you expect might be significant strengths in the specific patch/neighbourhood you will be working in?

MULTICODE OK
RANDOMISE

Individuals motivated to get involved in local community action
Strong sense of community identity
High levels of interaction between people from different backgrounds
Existing community resources (e.g. facilities)
Strong networks and associations already present
Individuals' resources (e.g. money/time)
The skills of local residents
Local economic assets (e.g. local businesses)
Other (specify)
Don't know

Q16.

How much support, if any, do you expect to receive from the host organisation throughout your training year?

SINGLE CODE ONLY

A great deal of support
A fair amount of support
A little support
Hardly any support
No support at all
Don't know

Q17.

Different hosts will offer different kinds of support to the trainee community organisers that they host. Which two or three, if any, of the following types of host support do you think will be most important to you over the 51-week training programme?

MULTICODE UP TO THREE
RANDOMISE

Resources (e.g. space, access to a landline)
Line-management support
Peer support (e.g. other community organisers)
Information about the patch
Introductions to local people
Introductions to other local organisations/other useful local contacts
Not sure at this point
Other (specify)

D) EXPERIENCE

This next section is about your work history and educational background, which will allow us to understand the range of different people who are training to be community organisers.

SOURCE: British Social Attitudes

Q18.

What were you doing immediately before starting as a trainee community organiser??
SINGLE CODE

Working full-time (30hrs/wk+)

Working part-time (8-29 hrs/wk)

Not working (i.e. under 8 hrs/week) – full-time homemaker

Not working (i.e. under 8 hrs/week) – retired

Not working (i.e. under 8 hrs/week) – unemployed (registered)

Not working (i.e. under 8 hrs/week) – unemployed (not registered but looking for work)

Not working (i.e. under 8 hrs/week) – student

Not working (i.e. under 8 hrs/week) – other (incl. disabled)

SOURCE: British Social Attitudes

Q19.

The last time you were in paid employment, what sector were you working in?
SINGLE CODE

Private Sector firm or company (e.g. limited companies or PLCs)

Nationalised industry or public corporations (e.g. the Post Office or the BBC)

Public Sector Employer (e.g. Central gov't/ Civil Service/ Gov't Agency/Local authority/ Local

Education Authority INCL 'OPTED OUT' SCHOOLS, Universities, Health Authority / NHS hospitals / NHS Trusts / GP surgeries/ Police / Armed forces)

Charity/Voluntary Sector Including, for example, charitable companies, churches, trade unions

Self-employed

Own business / company

I have just left education/never had paid employment

ASK ALL CODE 1-6 AT Q19

Q19a.

What was your role?

WRITE IN

SOURCE: Modified version of the Audit or Political Engagement

Q20.

Which of these, if any, have you done in the last two or three years?

MULTICODE

RANDOMISE

Voted in the last local council election

Discussed politics or political news with someone else

Discussed community issues or community news with someone else

Signed a petition

Donated money or paid a membership fee to a charity or campaigning organisation

Done paid community work

Done voluntary local community work (e.g. organising a street party in your area)

Done other voluntary work that was not based in a local community (e.g. writing letters for Amnesty International)

Boycotted certain products for political, ethical or environmental reasons

Expressed my political opinions online
Taken part in party political activities (e.g. meetings, canvassing)
Been to any community meetings (including Council meetings)
Taken part in a demonstration, picket or march

E) THE FUTURE

This section asks about what your expectations of your 51 weeks as a community organiser and your future plans.

Q21.

What do you expect will be the main impacts of 51 weeks spent training and working as a trainee community organiser on *you as a person*?

WRITE IN

And thinking specifically about the local area in which you will be working

Q22.

What do you expect will be the main impacts of 51 weeks spent training and working as a trainee community organiser on *the people in the area you come into contact with and work with directly*?

WRITE IN

Q23.

What do you expect will be the main impacts of 51 weeks spent training and working as an trainee community organiser on *the local community overall, including those who you have not worked with directly*?

WRITE IN

Q24a.

How long do you expect to work as a community organiser?

SINGLE CODE

Fewer than 51 weeks
51 weeks
1-2 years
2-5 years
Longer than five years
For the rest of my career
Don't know

Q24b.

How long do you expect to stay working in the local area?

SINGLE CODE

Fewer than 51 weeks
51 weeks
1-2 years
2-5 years
Longer than five years
For the rest of my career
Don't know

F) WELLBEING AND SOCIAL TRUST

This next section asks some questions about your feelings on aspects of your life. There are no right or wrong answers. For each of these questions I'd like you to give an answer on a scale of nought to ten, where nought is 'not at all' and 10 is 'completely'.

ALLOW BLANKS, BUT PROMPT WITH 'Are you sure you want to leave your response blank?'

SOURCE Q25-Q28: ONS

Q25. Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays? Please use a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is not at all satisfied and 10 is completely satisfied.

Q26. Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile? Please use a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is not at all worthwhile and 10 is completely worthwhile.

Q27. Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday? Please use a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is not at all happy and 10 is completely happy.

Q28. Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday? Please use a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is not at all anxious and 10 is completely anxious.

Option : Prefer not to say

Source: Community Life

Q31.

I'd now like to ask you how you view other people. Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

People can be trusted

You can't be too careful

Depends

F) DEMOGRAPHICS

This section asks a few short questions about you, which again will allow us to understand the range of different people who are training to be community organisers.

Q32.

What age were you on your last birthday?

Q33.

Are you...

SINGLE CODE ONLY

Male

Female

SOURCE: Census 2011

Q34.

What is your ethnic group?

SINGLE CODE ONLY

A. White

English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British

- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Any other White background WRITE IN
- B. Mixed / multiple ethnic groups
 - White and Black Caribbean
 - White and Black African
 - White and Asian
 - Any other Mixed / multiple ethnic background WRITE IN
- C. Asian / Asian British
 - Indian
 - Pakistani
 - Bangladeshi
 - Chinese
 - Any other Asian background WRITE IN
- D. Black / African / Caribbean / Black British
 - African
 - Caribbean
 - Any other Black / African / Caribbean background WRITE IN
- E. Other ethnic group
 - Arab
 - Any other ethnic group WRITE IN

Prefer not to say
Don't know