

Summary of Hot Topics Survey Training Working Group – August 2009

The results have been categories into the following 3 groups and then listed below.

- Audience and skills sector
- Training topics
- Opportunities and examples

Audience and Sector

Ageing work force

Horticultural expertise

Gaining skills for local groups and volunteers

Countryside ranger service – often no industry standard or guidance as to the appropriate level of this training to demonstrate competence.

Variety of training subjects and requirements are difficult to deliver via external courses because of cost and time.

Ranger Service – explore need for accredited guided walk training to demonstrate competence. It would be good to identify a regional approach.

Poor image of ‘horticulture’ as something you do if you leave school unqualified with few options.

Encouraging more colleges to cover latest sustainable design and management topics of green spaces in relation to new spaces created as part of housing agenda.

Training course topics

- Funding training – how to be successful in their applications (EoI but fewer applications)
- Advocacy of RoWs
- GI – understanding of it
- How to recruit volunteer (particularly in rural areas)
- Risk assessment/health and safety awareness
- Customer service

- Handling conflict/dealing with difficult customers
- First Aid
- Manual Handling
- Leading volunteers
- Use of non certificated equipment (mowers etc)
- Chainsaw use
- Brush cutter use
- Use of Quad/ATV
- Playground inspections
- Fire warden
- Event organisation
- New Red Diesel Regulations and implications for Greenspace managers
Funding implications 2011/12 sweating the asset
catering for an aging market in the visitor sector
proving sustainable relevant activities for a changing expectation of visitors
- Managing open water in urban spaces – increasing because of SUD and flood designs in new housing developments.

Opportunities and examples

Future Job Fund

The Government has created a £1 billion Future Jobs Fund to which local authorities and other organisations can bid to create around 150,000 new jobs. This is a new approach to create jobs and provide hope for young people and jobseekers in deprived communities. There is about £6000 for new members of staff. It is a good opportunity for apprentices.

<http://campaigns.dwp.gov.uk/campaigns/futurejobsfund/index.asp>

Green spaces and horticulture is the industry that feeds the planet with air, medicine, food, water management etc. There are lots of amazing **statistics** that could be used to promote an **amazing industry** that provides a wealth of varied career opportunities. Now that sustainability is a key issue for the world, we should be pushing horticulture as the industry to work in the save the world. Promote this career choice to Career Advisors and Connexion officers.

'GROW your own career' website

This website is delivered through a wide partnership of organisations. Visitors can read about a variety of jobs under the titles such as Plant science and technology, art and design, business, production and food etc. It also links to jobs currently being advertised.

There is an opportunity for organisations to get involve with this website and also help to promote it within their contacts.

<http://www.growcareers.info/home/>

World Skills UK

WorldSkills UK provides over 70 quality assured skills competitions. Run annually these competitions aim to encourage young people and adults across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to excel in their vocational skill area.

WorldSkills London 2011 Competition, UK Skills will consider outstanding performers from this cycle of competitions to join the short list for the team that goes on to represent the UK at WorldSkills London 2011.

Competitions will be open for entry on 5th October 2009, in the meantime get in touch with our contact centre: T 0800 612 0742 - E Worldskillsuk@ukskills.org.uk - W www.worldskillsuk.org.uk.

University Leavers Open Days

Banks and other commercial organisations often promote their organisations and careers in their industry to college and university leavers at open day. There is an opportunity for the green space sector to do this. It has been identified that we need more managers and leaders and universities can provide this.

There is an opportunity to find some **good exemplar case studies** to promote individuals achievements in this industry, as there are plenty of amazing stories out there. Activities like this will help the image of 'horticulture' and may be reach key career influencers such as parents.

Local authorities are often the **biggest local employers**. There are opportunities to promote careers in coordinated fashion in local authorities if departments spoke to each other or were coordinated by HR department.

Many incomers to our industry are **over 25 years** and have come from other industries. There is usually no funding to promote and work with this age group.

This working group is an opportunity for collaborative partnerships.

DVD is available about new 10 industry careers promotion for schools, job centres and careers advisers.