

2. What is the DofE?

Case Study 1



You are a new DofE Co-Ordinator/Leader. When you meet with the other DofE Leaders, you discover that they have been personally writing the programme for each participant. This has been standard practice for many years, with no input from the young people.

Discuss the issues raised by this situation. What action will you take?

Case Study 2



You are the DofE Leader and are making plans for next year's expedition season. The adults in your team don't have much expedition experience, so you are considering using an Approved Activity Provider to run the expeditions for you.

On reviewing your expeditions policy, a question is raised about organisational responsibility during the expedition. Would the AAP be responsible for all aspects of the expedition (e.g. safety), or does the organisation also retain some responsibility?

Discuss this question and consider the implications for planning expeditions.

Case Study 3



The DofE is trialling an innovative new method for completing DofE programmes.

As a Leader in an organisation, you have received an email about the trial and think it sounds like a good idea.

Who should you liaise with in your organisation to decide whether to take part in the trial?

Case Study 4

A participant wants to do a study of 'Snooker in the 21st Century' for her Skills section. She asks if her uncle can assess the section, as he is a real fan and has expert knowledge of snooker over the last 50 years.

**Can the participant's uncle assess this section?
Discuss the issues around who can assess
activities.**

Case Study 5



Due to competing priorities, your DofE Co-Ordinator has suggested that they simply offer Bronze and then Gold programmes for participants, missing Silver entirely.

Discuss the implications of this and the impact that it may have on the young people.

Case Study 6



You are DofE Leader and are approached by a potential participant. They are 15 and a half, are new to the DofE and are very keen to get going with their DofE programme.

Discuss which level they should begin with and the likely implications.

Case Study 7

You are a DofE Leader with a new cohort. You are aware of one young person in the cohort who has learning difficulties and another with a disability affecting their mobility.

What would you do to ensure these two participants have an enjoyable and rewarding programme?

Case Study 8

Several of your Silver participants have left after completing their award and you now only have three young people left who want to do Gold next year.

What advice would you give to these young people?

Case Study 9



A young person is involved with their local rowing club and has chosen coxing for both their Bronze and Silver Skills section. They now wish to do this for their Gold Skills section as well.

Discuss the issues raised by this situation. What advice would you give?

Case Study 10



A participant asks you if Wired Aerial Theatre counts for the Skills or Physical sections.

On investigation, you discover Wired Aerial Theatre is performed on stage and is similar to an extreme sport. A performance will incorporate elements of climbing, abseiling, gymnastics and aerobics.

How would you decide if this is a Skill or Physical section activity?

Case Study 11



You have a Gold participant who has asked for advice on his choice of residential activity. They want to sign up to a charity working holiday, undertaking animal conservation projects abroad. They have met the volunteer team that always run the holidays and is particularly keen to spend time with them.

Does this sound like a suitable Residential section activity?

Case Study 12

When on a Gold practice expedition, a participant appears withdrawn and unhappy. They are finding it difficult to engage with the rest of the team and become increasingly distressed. They end up leaving the expedition abruptly and going home. You cancel the practice and liaise with the parents.

It transpires that, unbeknown to you, the participant has recently been diagnosed with a number of mental health issues. The parents have been trying to find some suitable support for the participant.

Discuss the issues raised by this situation. What action will you take?

Case Study 13



You have been asked to take over running an existing DofE centre and you have noticed that, whilst many of the participants complete their expedition, few complete their whole programme.

Discuss what barriers there may be in the way of them completing their DofE.

Case Study 14

A new Leader has taken over at an LO. They have a good number of participants and decent facilities, but almost no other adult support. The Leader is expected to do everything and they are already struggling.

Discuss how the Leader could increase the number of adult helpers.