

BBC Radio Shropshire Factsheet

Support Services for Young Offenders

Compiled 19/04/05

It's a challenging volunteering opportunity – but probably one of the most rewarding you could ever hope to find. If you are interested in helping young people here are three opportunities you might like to consider.

- Youth Support Services – Appropriate Adult Project
- Connect
- Intensive Control and Change Programme (ICCP)

Youth Support Services – Appropriate Adult Project

Youth Support Services need volunteers to support 10 – 17 year olds through police procedures whilst under arrest at local police stations.

What is a volunteer Appropriate Adult?

The Police and Criminal Evidence Act (P.A.C.E) 1984 and Youth Justice Board National Standard require that a young person aged between 10 and 17 must have an appropriate adult in attendance if they are being interviewed under caution at a police station.

Usually an Appropriate Adult would be a parent/ carer but for a variety of reasons this may not always be possible.

The Police have a duty to request a suitably trained adult to attend and following research it was decided to train and recruit volunteers.

What does a volunteer Appropriate Adult actually do?

The volunteer works on a rota basis – and would be called to the station when required. They would deal with various checks and be present during the police interview. They would look after the young person's rights and welfare.

How does the service operate?

The Youth Support Services provide this service in Shropshire Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Volunteer are fully trained and accredited the placed on a rota.

How much time and commitment does a volunteer need to give?

This varies from person to person. Volunteers would be asked to be available once a fortnight and probably for 2 to 3 hours.

Youth Support Services - Mentoring Projects.

Connect

This is a new initiative to help young offenders who have been sentenced to less than 12 months in custody. Mentors work with young offenders on release from prison to help and support them and resettle them into the community. Mentor commitment is very flexible – usually up to 12 hours support over a 3 month period

Intensive Control and Change Programme (ICCP)

This involves working in partnership with West Mercia Probation. ICCP is for 18 – 20 year olds who have offended and is a direct alternative to a custodial sentence of 12 months or less. Part of their 25 hours per week intensive programme is to meet regularly with a mentor who will help and support young people to complete the 6 month programme. Other elements include tagging and community service.

In all cases volunteers will be given appropriate training and full back up is provided by the team of volunteers co-ordinators.

More information about these volunteering opportunities are available from:

Debbie Grantham on: 01952 257467 or 079 89 304 695.

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