

PRESS RELEASE



HPA 014

8 May 2009

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SPEND TIME BEHIND BARS!

Hertfordshire Police Authority is looking for volunteers who live in West Hertfordshire to join the Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) scheme to visit custody suites and help monitor the welfare of people detained in cells.

Successful Independent Custody Visitors (ICV's) will be required to visit custody suites at Watford and Hemel Hempstead police stations and will be fully trained before taking up their duties, which will normally entail one visit every two months.

Hertfordshire Police Authority Lead Member for the ICV scheme, Anne Wright, said: "Independent Custody Visitors are instrumental in ensuring people detained in police cells are treated fairly and with respect. ICV's talk in confidence to detainees, later reporting any problems, concerns or complaints they may have. They may also be required to visit other areas of the custody area, including the kitchen, medical room, interview rooms if empty, and shower area.

"We are keen to recruit a number of ICV's in the Western area of the county on to this rewarding scheme and welcome applications from people from all walks of life."

ICV's are required to be 18 years of age or above, and there is no age limit. Posts are open to anyone; male or female, from any background or ethnic group. ICV's are required to have been a UK resident for at least three years and currently live and/or work in Hertfordshire. No qualifications are required but ICV's cannot be serving police officers, civilian police employees or Special Constables.

Full travel expenses for each Visitor are reimbursed by the Police Authority.

If you require further details regarding the ICV scheme, please contact Peter Hinton, Performance & Operations Officer on 01992 555627 or email peter.hinton.hpa@herts.pnn.police.uk.

- Ends -

For further information please contact Emily Anderson, Hertfordshire Police Authority, on 01992 555628 or email emily.anderson.hpa@herts.pnn.police.uk