

Volunteer Appropriate Adult Role Description

AIM OF VOLUNTEERING ROLE

The aim of an Appropriate Adult Volunteer is to offer support to vulnerable adults who find themselves detained in Police custody. Being an Appropriate Adult is a challenging, fulfilling and often rewarding role. Volunteers must be over 18 but don't need previous knowledge of legal procedures or social work. The role of the Appropriate Adult is not to provide legal advice but to offer impartial support and be a friendly face in the absence of a family member or carer to people who may be feeling frightened, bewildered, and confused in an unfamiliar situation.

LOCATION

Support will be needed at custody suites in Wrexham, Llay, St Asaph & Caernarfon Police stations.

TIME COMMITMENT

The role is flexible as the service runs 24 hours a day 7 days a week, 365 days a year but we do ask that volunteers commit to being available for 4 sessions per month within the rota system.

- Mornings (7am-12pm)
- Afternoons (12noon-5pm)
- Evenings (5pm-10pm)
- Nights (10pm – 7am)

It is difficult to say how long you may be at a station, but the average is around 4 hours.

SKILLS, EXPERIENCE AND PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

Whilst formal qualifications or previous experience are not essential for this role we do ask that Volunteer Appropriate Adults have:

- Good verbal and communication skills, be able to facilitate and communicate between the detained person and the police.
- Good literacy and basic administrative skills.
- Commitment to attend training courses and supervision and de-briefing meetings.
- Ability to attend police station within one hour from Hafal receiving the call when you are on the rota.

Volunteers will also need to be able to demonstrate that they can:

- Represent Hafal in a positive and professional manner at all times.
- Form and maintain good working relationships with a variety of people, especially clients and representatives of other agencies both statutory and voluntary.
- Display honesty, integrity and patience when dealing with vulnerable adults.
- Be non-judgemental when dealing with vulnerable adults and understand the issues, problems and difficulties that they may face.
- Ability to recognise factors which cause stress both in oneself and others, and to identify appropriate coping mechanisms.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

You must be aged over 18 and have access to your own transport.

BENEFITS OFFERED

- 2 day Agored Cymru accredited training is provided
- Opportunity to meet other professionals
- Improve your understanding of the problems faced by adults with vulnerabilities and gain invaluable experience
- Help improve your career prospects
- Expenses paid in line with Hafal's Volunteer Expenses Policy
- All Appropriate Adults will receive regular support and supervision with a senior member of Hafal staff.

NEXT STEPS – APPLICATION PROCESS

- Request an application form via email from appropriateadult@hafal.org
- We will require 2 references, either previous employers or persons of a professional standing
- All applicants are subject to enhanced Police Vetting
- If your initial application is successful, you will be invited to attend training at the next available date.
- Once you have undergone the formal training you will be asked to shadow experienced Appropriate Adults on 2-3 occasions before beginning the role.

ANY QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions or require further information please contact us at appropriateadult@hafal.org or on 01792 816600