

Volunteering

Make a difference to people's lives



What is a Volunteer Mentor?

A volunteer mentor helps support service users on probation throughout their order/licence period, offering advice and guidance, and helping them overcome personal barriers.

As a volunteer, you will support service users to comply and engage with their order/licence requirements, help them to gain skills to ensure their lives improve, and prevent reoffending.

Support for service users can include:

- Help into work
- Help accessing specialist services to overcome personal barriers (such as housing, employment and benefits services)
- Encouraging positive progression
- Building meaningful relationships with our service users

Working as a volunteer is a great way to build your own skills while doing something that is worthwhile and rewarding. You can make a real difference to the lives of our service users, enabling them to play an active role in their community and contributing to reducing reoffending.

"I can make a significant contribution to the community"

What are the benefits?

As a volunteer you will: Meet a wide variety of people from different backgrounds, gain valuable experience, especially if you are considering a career in social work or in the criminal justice sector, help others and make a significant contribution to reducing reoffending.

What Skills do I need?

You do not need any formal qualifications to become a volunteer, just an open mind, a desire to help others and a few spare hours per week. You should consider volunteering if you:

- Have a belief that people can change
- Do not judge or discriminate
- Can act as a good role model
- Are able to establish relationships
- Understand the importance of, and maintain confidentiality

What support will you give me?

Our volunteers receive full role-specific training and further development and training opportunities. You will get regular one-to-one and peer support, supervision from your volunteer coordinator, and opportunities to attend frequent meetings, social events and recruitment fairs. We also reimburse travel and subsistence expenses.

About the Volunteer Mentor Unit

The Volunteer Mentor Unit is part of Wales Probation Services. Our volunteers work with service users across all levels of risk, and we support them to fulfil their work and personal goals.

Our goal is to reduce reoffending and in doing so, improve people's lives—potential victims as well as perpetrators of crime. We do this specifically by steering people away from offending.

"I started volunteering as a means to gain some experience by offering support and new opportunities to service users in partnership with my degree in Criminology"



Who can volunteer?

We welcome people from all backgrounds and actively encourage people with previous convictions to volunteer. You just need to be over the age of 18 and if you have previously been on probation, it needs to be at least 12 months since your order/licence finished.

How do I apply?

If you would like to volunteer with us please call Carole Lippiatt on

01633 247300 or email at

carole.lippiatt@walescrc.probatonservices.co.uk