



## **Community Action Project**

Independent Custody Visitors

## **Community Action Partner**

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner Surrey

**Aim:** The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey holds Surrey Police to account, helps with the setting of strategic direction and sets the budget for policing within the County. As part of this activity, the PCC is required to run an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme.

**Role:** Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) go into police custody in pairs and check on the welfare of detainees and the conditions in which they are held. It is likely that the ideal volunteer has an interest in the criminal justice sector. ICVs must have good verbal and listening skills and be non-judgemental

**Training:** All ICVs have to complete Surrey Police vetting before being accepted onto the Scheme. A full day's induction training is held on a Saturday in Guildford. This has to be completed prior to going into custody. Two training visits are then completed with a pair of trained visitors, whereupon the new recruit will join the rota. An annual training session is also held to extend knowledge and there are other optional conferences available.

**Location:** Staines, Guildford, Reigate, and Woking

**Times:** After initial training, ICVs are required to attend custody every 4-6 weeks and the visit is likely to last between 1 and 2 hours. ICVs work in a pair and have a large degree of autonomy in arranging their visit over a 7 days/24 hour period between themselves. ICVs need to attend quarterly panel meetings (held on a Weds evening at Staines Police Station, dates published well in advance)

**Other:** Any disability would have to be risk-assessed. It is important for the safety of all concerned that an ICV can exit the custody area quickly and safely should the need arise.

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