

## Types of volunteers

There are two volunteer options within The Staffordshire and West Midlands Community Rehabilitation Company (SWM CRC). Support Volunteers and ETE Volunteer Mentors.

SWM CRC recognises that both Support Volunteers and ETE Volunteer Mentors can make a significant contribution to reducing re-offending. This will be achieved by ensuring that support from a volunteer is built into a range of services currently delivered by SWM CRC and partner organisations designed to tackle offending behaviour.

As a volunteer, you will get involved with the work of SWM CRC in building stronger communities, enhancing relationships, as well as gaining a better understanding of the work we do.

SWM CRC aims to recruit volunteers with diverse backgrounds from across Staffordshire and the West Midlands. They will act as a role model for offenders, be a positive influence on them, assist them in gaining confidence and achieving their goals.

Volunteers will not be expected to undertake tasks for which professional training is required.

All offenders referred to the scheme will have been risk assessed by their supervising officer to ensure they pose no risk of harm to the volunteer.

## How to apply

You will need to complete an application form and attend an interview to confirm your suitability for the role. If you are accepted, you will be required to complete some training, submit references and undergo a vetting process, including DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service), before starting work with offenders.

If you would like to apply to become an ETE Volunteer Mentor or Support Volunteer, download an application form by visiting:

[www.swmcrc.co.uk](http://www.swmcrc.co.uk)

or contact the Volunteer Coordinator:

Michael Gordon  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Staffordshire and West Midlands CRC  
2nd Floor  
5 St Philips Place  
Birmingham  
B3 2PW

Tel: 0121 634 1363

Mobile; 07736 186 694

Email: [Michael.Gordon@swm.probation.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.Gordon@swm.probation.gsi.gov.uk)

# Volunteer Schemes

Who cares wins



## Support Volunteers

Working as a Support Volunteer can be rewarding in more ways than one. Volunteers are recruited from all walks of life.

### Would you be available regularly?

Could you be available to volunteer on a regular basis for the next 6-12 months?

### What can I do as a volunteer ?

Volunteers assist offenders by supporting and encouraging them to comply with and complete their Community Sentence or Licence under direction of their offender manager by:

- Providing practical support, e.g helping offenders to register with a GP or register for benefits
- Helping to complete application forms
- Helping offenders identify and access positive ways of using their spare time
- Providing support to people with addictions or mental health problems
- Assisting in community connection/resource centres and hostels as well as prison projects
- Providing support to offenders in custody
- Providing support to offenders' families
- Working closely with offender managers

## ETE Volunteer Mentors

### Education, Training and Employment (ETE) Volunteer Mentors

These volunteers work with offenders on their Education, Training and Employment (ETE) needs.

This could be in a group, or one-to-one.

Groupwork tasks include assisting a college tutor in a Skills For Life class, or working with a Probation Service Officer to run job clubs for offenders, where they receive help with job searches, making applications, interview skills and researching funding for training.

One-to-one mentors meet with an offender every week to provide motivation support, assist with setting education, training and employment goals, and developing a plan with the offender to achieve these goals. It could include simple things like accompanying an offender to college for the first time, or giving a pep talk before a job interview.



## Skills and qualifications



No formal qualifications are needed to become a volunteer, although there are some skills you will need.

ETE Volunteer Mentors and Support Volunteers need to:

- Have a belief that people can change
- Demonstrate pro-social behaviour (acting as a positive role model)
- Understand and maintain confidentiality
- Be non-judgemental and non-discriminatory
- Be able to work individually and as a part of a team
- Establish relationships with offenders and others while maintaining professional boundaries.

You will also need to be able to commit to a minimum of an hour a week for a minimum of six months, as well as attending initial training. Further training is offered to ETE Volunteer Mentors, should you wish to develop specific areas of interest.