

## Prison Visits Volunteer

*HMP Lincoln, HMP Morton Hall, HMP Stocken, HMP Humber, HMP Hull, HMP North Sea Camp*

### **Lincolnshire Action Trust:**

Lincolnshire Action Trust was established in 2000 and works with a variety of agencies within the criminal justice system to reduce re-offending, by working with people with convictions to address some of the issues and challenges which have resulted in their sentence.

The charity offers a range of training opportunities and employment support to prepare people for their release. Additional key services are also offered to their families and dependants, both during their time in prison and following their release.

### **General overview:**

Visitors' centres exist to meet the needs of adults and children visiting relatives or friends in in prison. Prison Service Guidelines state that they aim to offer "a safe, pleasant environment where all visitors are met with dignity and respect, provided with the facilities they need, and offered information, support and the opportunity to discuss the difficulties they may face in confidence". This statement is reflective of the visitors' centres that Lincolnshire Action Trust runs.

Volunteers in this role will therefore offer a warm welcome to all visitors arriving for a domestic and potentially family visit, and assist in the processes of booking in visitors. They will offer emotional and practical support to the families who are waiting for a visit, providing activities, information and answering questions when required.

### **This role would entail;**

- Welcoming and talking to visitors as they arrive in the Visits Centre
- Assist our Children and Families staff with booking in the visitors and ensuring they understand the process
- Provide support and guidance to families/friends of prisoners
- Support children by encouraging them to take part in activities alongside our staff members
- Ensure that the Visits Centre, play area and visits hall are kept tidy after visits take place

### **You will need to;**

- Agree to an enhanced DBS check, reference checks and potentially prison clearance
- Undertake an induction and training programme
- Be available for a minimum of 2 sessions per month (ideally weekly if possible).
- Commit to a minimum of 3 to 6 months for volunteering availability

### **Skills required:**

- Welcoming and friendly attitude
- Ability to work confidently as part of a team
- An understanding of confidentiality
- Patience and understanding