

Can I be an Appropriate Adult & a Mentor?

Yes, many of our volunteers work across AA & Mentoring projects. Details of all our projects are available by contacting the office (details over). They like the variety of work in the different roles that we offer and the insight into different areas of the criminal justice system.

Other volunteers choose to work solely as Appropriate Adults as they prefer the contained "one-off" role in supporting a young person whilst under arrest. The contact with the young person finishes once police procedures are completed.

How do I become an Appropriate Adult?

Complete & return the enclosed volunteer application form.

A volunteer co-ordinator will contact you to arrange an informal selection for training meeting.

You will attend the 1 day Appropriate Adult training.

A one-to-one training debriefing will take place between you and a Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Following discussion and agreement, you will then be placed on the rota.

YSS looks to recruit a diverse group of male and female volunteers aged 18+ across the region who come from all kinds of backgrounds, cultures and interests.

If you have any queries or questions about the role of an Appropriate Adult please do not hesitate to contact the Senior Area Volunteer Co-ordinator Carole Blake
Mobile: 07967 092 628
Email: carole.blake@yss.org.uk

***YSS is a member of the
National Appropriate Adult Network***



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VOLUNTEER APPROPRIATE ADULTS



YSS require volunteers to support 10 –17 year olds during police procedures, whilst under arrest, at local Police Stations in Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire Telford and Wrekin.



**Full Member
National
Appropriate
Adult
Network**

What is a volunteer Appropriate Adult?

The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (P.A.C.E) and Youth Justice Board National Standards require that any young person aged between 10 and 17 years of age, whilst being interviewed under caution at a police station, must have an Appropriate Adult in attendance.

In the first instance, the Appropriate Adult would be the parent/carer or close family relative. This is often not possible for a variety of reasons;

- in Care
- unwilling to attend
- not contactable
- work commitments
- other child care commitments
- being the victim of the alleged incident
- witness to the alleged incident
- co-accused in the same incident
- sickness

In such cases, the police have a duty to request a suitably trained Appropriate Adult to attend. Following government research, recommendations were made for the establishment of appropriate local volunteer schemes to provide an Appropriate Adult service.

What does a YSS volunteer Appropriate Adult actually do?

The role will always take place in a police station. This would involve the Appropriate Adult:

- Liaising with the Custody Sergeant regarding the circumstances of a young person's detention.
- Checking the Custody record ensuring that the young person's welfare is being maintained.

- Ensuring that the young person has been given, and understands, his/her rights.
- Being aware & monitoring the young persons physical health, mental & emotional condition.
- Reporting on any changes to relevant custody sergeant.
- Being present during the police interview, in the presence of a solicitor.
- Being present whilst the young person is fingerprinted and photographed.
- And may also be present for searches, video ID's, charging and bailing.

Please remember that you will have received training before carrying out this role

The Appropriate Adult is not involved in transportation, accommodation or other onward services that the young person may require.

How does the service operate?

YSS is contracted by:

The West Mercia Youth Offending Service (WMYOS) to provide Appropriate Adults as required between 6am—10pm every day of the year at the following police stations:

Redditch	Kidderminster
Hereford	Worcester
Telford	Shrewsbury

Once an Appropriate Adult is trained they are placed on a rota for times and dates that are suitable for them to be on standby. When a request is received from the police, YSS contacts the Appropriate Adult on the rota and supplies them with all the relevant details.

The Appropriate Adult then attends the police station at a pre-arranged time. The Appropriate Adult has the backup of a YSS staff member at all times for any queries or concerns that may arise whilst at the police station.

How much time do I need to give?

This varies from person to person. An Appropriate Adult may be occupied for between 2 and 3 hours whilst acting at a police station. We do ask that Appropriate Adults are available at least once per fortnight.

Appropriate Adults must be able to demonstrate:

- Reliability & commitment
- A non- judgmental approach
- Effective communication skills
- The ability to relate to people at all levels
- Confidence & the ability to deal with challenging situations

What Appropriate Adults can expect from YSS:

- Excellent work experience with a dynamic & forward thinking organisation .
- High quality comprehensive induction training.
- Regular, on-going support, supervision & training.
- Reimbursement of all expenses.