

Volunteer Role Description

Attitudes and Hate Crime Project: Police & Criminal Justice Liaison Co-ordinator

Hours: Variable but around 4-6 hours per week

Location: Home based

Role Purpose:

Disabled people are sometimes subject to abuse, insults or physical violence because of their disability. BuDS' Fair4All Attitudes & Hate Crimes project confidentially supports victims of disability hate incidents, helps them to report incidents to the police if they wish to do, and works to educate and campaign about disability hate crime. The Fair4All Attitudes & Hate Crimes project is intended to be led and staffed by BuDS volunteers with the support of a part-time paid Disability Hate Crime Officer.

This voluntary role provides the essential link between the BuDS Attitudes & Hate Crime Project and criminal justice agencies, mainly Thames Valley Police and the Crown Prosecution Service. It is important that victims who do want to report hate crimes to the police can do so in the right way, to maximise the chances of a successful prosecution. It is equally important that victims are not further traumatised by their experiences within the criminal justice system. This volunteer role will help make sure victims are supported properly and have the right support as they engage with the police and courts.

This role would ideally suit someone with experience of working in the police or a criminal justice agency or who has experience of supporting victims in the criminal justice field. However, this is not essential.

Specific Responsibilities:

With strong support of the project manager, hate crime officer, and as part of the Attitudes and Hate Crime Project team:

- Become the in-team 'specialist' in criminal justice system partners, structures and procedures relevant to disability hate crime in Bucks
- Be the main point of contact between the project and criminal justice agencies and get to know all the key players on that side and win their trust
- Advise and support the project staff and volunteers on the right policies, procedures and methods to put in place to properly meet the needs of victims who want to report an incident to the police
- Be an advisor to project volunteers who are supporting a victim to report an incident to the police, to help them provide the right support in the right way.
- Where victims want to report an incident to BuDS and not to the police ('third party reporting'), make sure that the right systems and procedures are in place to capture the necessary information. Make sure that third party reports are passed anonymously to the police and other CJS agencies.
- Represent BuDS at relevant stakeholder meetings and events

- Be part of the BuDS Attitude and Hate Crime team and take part in weekly team meetings and briefings. Report back to the team on any issues which may arise

Person Specification

- Working knowledge of using MS Office & Teams
- Ability to maintain confidentiality and keep private information to themselves – this role will involve highly sensitive information and you will need to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the victim.
- Ability to communicate comfortably and effectively with a wide range of people, organisations and networks.
- Strong empathy and appropriate relationship building along with good communication skills.
- Strong understanding of safeguarding and why it is important
- Be able to always maintain appropriate boundaries
- Understanding and commitment to the Social Model of disability – see <https://buds.org.uk/the-social-model-of-disability/>

BuDS is an equal opportunity organisation and disabled people are particularly encouraged to apply for this voluntary role.

BuDS is committed to safeguarding all those with whom it works. This post will involve unsupervised work with potentially vulnerable adults and children, and/or their records, and so this post will be subject to an enhanced DBS check on appointment. This will be arranged and paid for by BuDS. Character and work references will also be taken up.