



Community Link – Prison

‘Community’: Noun; the condition of sharing or having certain attitudes and interests in common.

‘Link’: Noun; a relationship between two things or situations.

About Waverley Care

Scotland is on track to be one of the first countries in the world to achieve zero HIV transmissions, and Waverley Care will play an essential role in getting us there.

A positive HIV diagnosis still has the power to knock people off their feet and impact every part of their lives. People living with HIV still carry the burden of decades of discrimination and misinformation about HIV. HIV is treatable, but the stigma and shame surrounding HIV holds people back and makes it different to other life-long conditions. Stigma and the fear of an HIV diagnosis still prevents many people at risk getting a test and knowing their status.

Our vision is for a Scotland where no one faces HIV alone, we will achieve this by fighting stigma and empowering people living with HIV to live full and healthy lives.

Waverley Care is Scotland’s leading HIV and hepatitis C charity, and everything we do is guided by the experiences of the people we work with – this ranges from shaping the services we deliver through to how we influence national policy around sexual health and blood borne viruses (BBVs).

We are at an exciting point in our history as we strive to reach the goal of zero transmissions by 2030. There is much work to be done, but as an organisation we are driven to create lasting change for everyone in Scotland living with, or at risk of HIV or hepatitis C.

You can find out more about the work we do at our website www.waverleycare.org.

About the role

The role of a Community Links Volunteer is to establish rapport and nurture trust with individuals transitioning from prison and reintegrating into the community, as well as those currently residing in the community with a connection to the justice system.

**A Community Links Volunteer is the bridge
between hope and a second chance,
embodying friendliness, approachability,
reliability and respect.**

About the person

A Community Links volunteer for prison work should embody the following qualities:

- Friendly, approachable and welcoming.
- Informed (or Willing to Learn): Knowledgeable about the relevant topics or eager to acquire that knowledge.
- Reliable: Dependable and trustworthy.
- Respectful of Confidentiality and Boundaries: Committed to upholding confidentiality and all other boundaries.
- Non-Judgemental: Non-biased and non-critical.
- Clear Communicator: Effective in conveying information and ideas.
- Motivated: Driven and enthusiastic.

Ideally, candidates should also possess knowledge of sexual health topics and HIV, be familiar with Waverley Care services (though full training will be provided), have experience engaging with the public, have lived experience of being in prison and/or living with a blood borne virus.

Key strengths

- **Friendly**
- **Approachable**
- **Informed (or willing to learn)**
- **Reliable**
- **Respectful of confidentiality and all other boundaries.**
- **Non - judgemental**
- **Clear communicator**
- **Motivated**

Responsibilities and duties

- Meeting with service users and members of the public
- Supporting outreach stalls at community and prison events
- Handing out condoms, lube and sexual health resources at events
- Signposting people to Waverley Care and partner organisations
- Helping with promotion of Waverley Care and partner events
- Liberation support – per liberation plan
- Post liberation support – per individual care plan
- Manning the information stand
- Engage in general conversation regarding sexual health with service users and members of the public
- Have a good knowledge of sexual health topics and be comfortable discussing these
- Listen to service users and highlight any concerns to Waverley Care support staff
- Have the knowledge to understand and support service users.

Support and training

- Volunteers will have a designated member of staff as their back up support.
- Debrief after events and opportunities to raise any concerns with staff.
- Volunteers will receive regular one to one support to minimise the risk of secondary trauma and to discuss any concerns. This can be tailored to suit your individual needs (over coffee, phone call, in person etc.).
- Support is available via an “open door policy”; scheduled catchups will also be provided.
- Volunteers will receive check-ins after each outreach session until the volunteer becomes more comfortable in the role.
- Comprehensive volunteer training will be provided and updated appropriately.