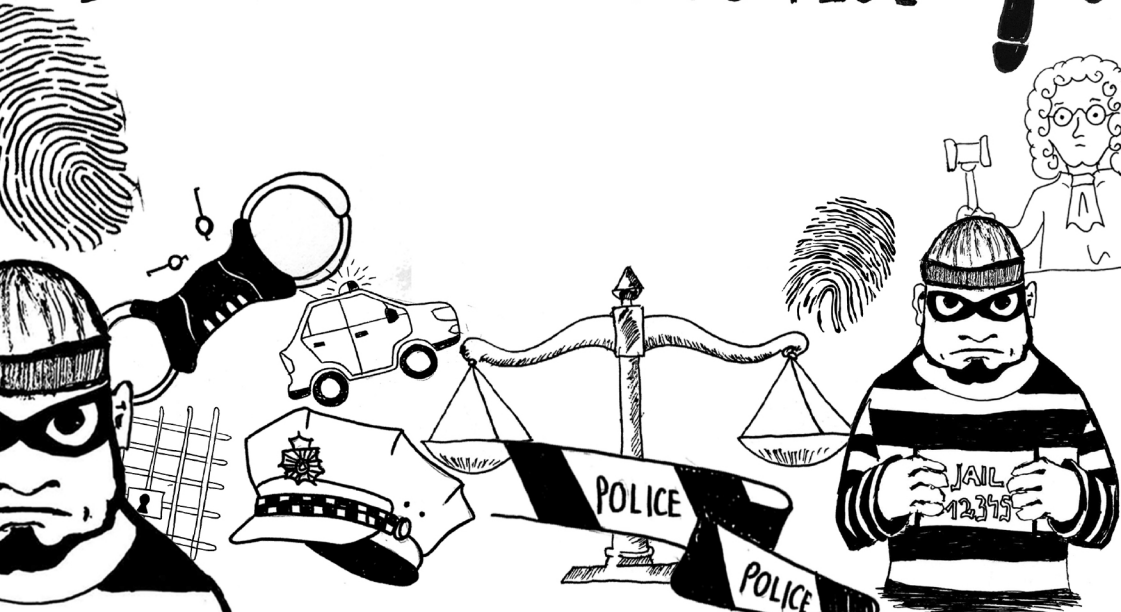


# VOLUNTEERING IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE



*Examples of relevant work experience might include working/volunteering for:*

- A Youth Offending Team
- The Probation Service
- A drugs agency, such as Cranstoun or Right Start
- West Midlands Police Special Constabulary
- British Transport Police
- A prison, such as shadowing the resettlement team at HMP Onley
- The Independent Monitoring Board
- Victims support services, such as Emerge, Childline, or The Glade
- The Witness Service
- Mentoring services, such as The New Bridge Foundation, Circles UK, or Change Grow Live
- A housing organisation, such as Midland Heart or Fry Housing Trust
- A youth centre, such as Pump Youth, Base 25, or Kinetic Youth
- Criminal Justice arts-based charities, such as The Geese or Recre8



"New Bridge befrienders are the only form of outside contact for many people in prison. During my work experience, I gathered together responses from evaluation forms - filled out by people in prison - into a database that will be used for New Bridge's Annual Report. This placement has helped me to gain a better understanding of the emotions people face whilst in prison, and what has caused them. It has reinforced my passion for helping people in prison settings."

*Nia (Criminology Student)*



"I have been working alongside a team of experienced volunteers to support male and female adults who have been a victim of sexual abuse. We organise victim groups and provide one-to-one sessions, with the aim of reducing social isolation. This experience has made me more aware of the hidden struggles that sexual abuse survivors go through and has helped me to understand the best way to support people."

*Sana (Criminology, Policing and Investigation Student)*



"I have worked with a drugs and alcohol support service, accompanying staff on home visits to clients. I have also taken part in running workshops to help clients overcome addiction, whilst assisting in drug testing for assessment during prescribed opioid treatment. This placement has helped to enhance my knowledge about addictions and positively change clients' lives."

*Libby (Criminology Student)*

## Why we think it's important to gain work experience in criminal justice

"Employers want life experience, as well as a degree."

"It helps you to become more critical of the concepts you learn about on the course."

"I enjoyed learning in a practical environment – it's good to push yourself out of your comfort zone."

"It helps you to figure out the right career path for you."

"You will gain insights into skills that are needed to work in criminal justice."

"Travelling to various prisons was an eye-opening experience, it helped me to understand what people in prison go through."

"You never know what could happen in the future if you impress the organisation."

## Top tips for finding work experience

1. Start by thinking about what you are passionate about.
2. Network. Network. Network.
3. Apply early. Interviews and training are required by most organisations.
4. Make sure that you align yourself to the aims of the organisation in your application.
5. Don't be afraid to send speculative cover letters to organisations where roles are not advertised.
6. Apply to lots of different places and be open to trying something new.

## Useful links

Try the following websites for volunteering opportunities:

<https://do-it.org/>

<https://www.bvsc.org/>

