

Victim Support Cornwall needs Volunteers

Victim Support Cornwall, the local charity for victims of crime, is currently recruiting people to train to be Community Service volunteers.

Community Service volunteers provide emotional support, practical help and information to anyone who has been a victim of crime, whether or not they choose to report the crime to the police. In 2006/7 over 10,000 people living in Cornwall were offered support by the charity, but to continue doing this, more volunteers are needed.

“Becoming a victim of crime can be a very traumatic experience, regardless of the nature of the crime. Some people will want to talk about what has happened to them and how they are feeling” said Jerry Campion, Senior Community Service Manager, “whilst others will be more interested in knowing what is happening to their case and whether they will have to go to court to give evidence. Our volunteers offer support tailored to each individual.”

Community Service Volunteers attend initial training which covers issues such as the impact of crime, equality and diversity, active listening skills and offering practical support and crime prevention advice. Having gained experience, volunteers can elect to attend specialist training courses which equip them to offer support to victims of serious crimes such as sexual assault, domestic violence and racist crimes and to the families of homicide victims.

Victim Support Cornwall is currently recruiting new volunteers to attend next year’s training course, which begins in March. Anyone interested in learning more about this opportunity to help members of the community who become victims of crime, is asked to call Linda on 01726 76145 or email training@vscornwall.co.uk for more information.