

Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner's joint strategic vision for volunteering

“Volunteering is the giving of unpaid help and a commitment of time and energy by individuals for the benefit of society, the community or the environment.”

We want Cambridgeshire to be a place where people feel:

- inspired to volunteer;
- have the opportunity to do so; and
- have excellent volunteering experiences.

We want to create a fully inclusive and diverse Police Support Volunteer team who give their time across the Constabulary and OPCC supporting a variety of activities. Volunteers enable us to provide an effective policing service which makes innovative use of existing resources and extends public involvement. Volunteers get a unique insight into the current challenges of delivering local policing; providing an independent voice on behalf of the communities we serve.

We want to encourage new volunteers to join us to create safer, stronger and supportive communities; communities with low crime rates, low numbers of victims and high numbers of people willing to act as witnesses.

We also want to work in partnership with our local communities to extend the number of people motivated to volunteer for other organisations keeping our communities safer such as Watch and Community Navigator Schemes. We also want to extend Employer-Supported Volunteering.

Our joint strategic vision is to:

- **Set out clearly defined roles** – with mutually shared expectations and responsibilities. This will include taking brave steps to explore new volunteering opportunities where specialist skills are needed by the Constabulary or OPCC. For example: cybercrime, community engagement with young people and the elderly or support for victims of crime. This will provide additional opportunities to develop links with and engage with communities to make them safer.
- **Ensure there are clear pathways into volunteering** –with simple application processes. This will include looking at new and innovative ways for people to volunteer alongside personal and family commitments and responding to their suggestions about where they think they can make a difference.
- **Match volunteers' skills, knowledge, experience and personal interests to volunteering opportunities** – this will ensure people can both draw upon their life skills and experiences and develop their personal interests to increase the capacity and capability of the Constabulary and OPCC and enhance the policing service available to the public. This will in turn increase the trust and confidence of the public in local policing.
- **Reward and recognise the contribution committed volunteers make** – by providing appropriate training, development and support and valuing the time they give.
- **Fully integrate volunteers into Cambridgeshire's policing culture.**