**Lewisham & Greenwich Appropriate Adult Service for Vulnerable Adults (AASVA).**

Lewisham residents experience high levels of deprivation, unemployment and a lack of fixed or appropriate accommodation. These compounding issues manifest in the significantly higher rates of serious mental illness within Lewisham, when compared to the national average. Across London, Lewisham currently deals with the highest volume of calls to the police where either the suspect or the victim has mental health needs.

The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) outlines the statutory requirement of the police to ensure an appropriate adult is present whenever a vulnerable adult is detained by the police.

The role of an Appropriate Adult is:

* To support, advise and assist the detained person, when they are being asked to provide information or participate in any procedure
* To observe whether the police are acting properly and fairly, and to inform a senior officer if they consider that they are not
* To assist with the detained person to communication with the police, whilst respecting their right to say nothing unless they want to
* To help the detained person understands their rights and ensure those rights are protected and upheld

Lewisham and Greenwich Borough Councils are seeking to commission a volunteer-based appropriate adult programme to support our vulnerable adults at the point of detention and charge.

We will be holding a market engagement event on the 15th July 2021 – 2pm to 3pm.

Requirements:

* Your organisation already has a volunteer programme YES/NO
* Your organisation is willing and able to expand their existing volunteer programme within Lewisham YES/NO
* Your organisation can train volunteers to undertake the appropriate adult role YES/NO

**PLEASE CONFIRM THAT YOU CAN MEET THESE REQUIRMENTS**

Supplier contact email