

Intermediaries – Giving a Voice to Vulnerable Witnesses: Have you got what it takes?

The Witness Intermediary Scheme is working to ensure that the most vulnerable in our society get access to justice. The Scheme has supported over 3000 vulnerable witnesses to date, many of whom would never have got to court without the help of an intermediary.

Intermediaries help witnesses with communication needs to give their best evidence in criminal investigations and at trial by ensuring that they can understand questions put to them and can communicate their answers effectively. They come from a wide background of professional roles and occupations including speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, psychology, social work, teaching and nursing, and bring the skills and experience gained in these roles to their work as intermediaries. As such, we are now looking to expand the number of intermediaries on our register in order to meet the increased demand for their services.

This is a challenging role working closely with victims, witnesses, the police and CPS, defence lawyers and the judiciary - sometimes in emotionally stressful and high-profile cases. Candidates must therefore have excellent interpersonal skills and emotional resilience. Intermediaries can often be required to assess a witness within a matter of days so a flexible approach is required. They work on a self-employed basis and are expected to commit to a minimum of 12 days per year. In return, we offer competitive remuneration rates and a unique opportunity to make a real difference to the effectiveness and fairness of our criminal justice system.

Successful candidates will be expected to undergo an accreditation and assessment process which will provide them with the necessary knowledge and skills to meet the required standards for the role. All appointments are subject to CRB and CTC security checks.

We are particularly interested in applicants who are:

(i) willing to work in one or more of the following areas:

- > London and surrounding areas
- > Norfolk
- > The North, including Cumbria, Northumbria, Durham, Humberside and Cleveland, or

(ii) have the professional skills and experience to work on the following types of cases:

- > Child witnesses
- > Witnesses with learning difficulties
- > Witnesses with mental health issues
- > Witnesses with Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Further information and an application form are available at www.cjsonline.gov.uk

Completed applications must be received by Friday 24 July 2009. Please be aware that if you are successful you will need to be available for interviews which will be held during 24-28 August 2009. If you have any other queries, please call 0207 035 8683.