

Community Advisors

Community Advisors are a network of key people who represent identified groups or communities, either through group or self-nomination. They make a voluntary commitment because they are interested in the safety and wellbeing of the group or community that they represent.

Groups or communities could be geographical like a street or a village, it could be a residents' association or a local community group like a football team, a youth group or a local business. Any group or community can get involved.

People who identify as belonging to a specific 'protected characteristic' group, as defined in the Equality Act 2010 and wish to represent people who identify with similar characteristics are particularly welcome to become Community Advisors for Hertfordshire Constabulary. A protected characteristic is an aspect of a person's identity that makes them who they are.

They are defined as:

- Age
- Religion or belief
- Race
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Sex
- Transgender
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Marriage and Civil Partnership

The role of Community Advisors

Community Advisors support communities by helping them maintain strong links with the police. They also support the constabulary by helping officers understand the issues and sensitivities affecting their particular community or group.

A Community Advisor's role is a diverse role but can include: advising police on issues relating to their area of knowledge or experience; advising on possible community impact, significance, and consequences of a particular incident or event; helping identify sensitive issues that may arise during police investigations or operations; providing feedback to police about management of an incident, investigation or operation; sharing authorised police messages within their communities and groups; or highlighting any concerns or issues within a particular community or group.

They would not have to respond on their own initiative to an incident, as they are only required to act when requested by the police. They would not normally be involved in: undertaking enquiries on behalf of the police; scrutinising the constabulary; meetings with victims, witnesses or families involved in incidents; providing an interpreting or translating service; speaking on behalf of the police to any person, including media and communities; speaking on behalf of communities or groups; or attending the scene of an incident.

