



## The MVP: Some Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: How does the Met Volunteer Programme help to reduce the fear of crime?**

-A. By allowing members of the public as MVP volunteers to actively engage with the MPS, rather than relying on hearsay and press reports. It is by being part of the extended policing family and seeing for themselves the procedures and issues facing the police that volunteers often become valuable advocates for the MPS in their communities; encouraging family members and friends to become more involved in reporting crime and assisting the police.

**Q: Is there a limit to what a volunteer can do?**

A: If the role is approved by the borough's steering group and it meets the borough's needs, then the borough manager will recruit to that role. The MPS has a moral, legal and/or statutory obligation to perform some duties and these must be done by our paid staff or officers and not offered to volunteers.

**Q: How many volunteers are there?**

As of August 2007 there were 1170 volunteers within the Met Volunteer Programme, with 125 volunteers assisting their local Safer Neighbourhoods teams.

**Q: Are volunteers vetted?**

A: MVP volunteers cannot start to give their time until they have been security cleared and have provided two satisfactory professional references. They have to undergo a formal interview and must be trained according to their volunteering role before they can start to give their time to the programme.

**Q: Are volunteers paid?**

A: Volunteers are not paid but they do receive reimbursement for reasonable out of pocket travelling expenses and a meal subsidy if they give more than four hours in one volunteering session.

**Q: How does the MVP lead to greater community engagement?**

A: Through the MVP, individuals who wish to give something back to their community are encouraged to see exactly what goes on in their Safer Neighbourhoods wards. These volunteers bring fresh ideas, raise local concerns and suggest solutions, and share with their own communities their experiences of a hard working committed group of people who want to reduce crime and make London safer.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS  
Local Police, Local Knowledge

[www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods](http://www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods)

## Information Update

October 2007 – Met Volunteer Programme

### The Met Volunteer Programme: Giving Something Back

The Met Volunteer Programme (MVP) provides volunteers to support the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) in making London the safest capital city in the world. It was established in 2001 with the aim of increasing contact between local communities and the police, and supporting Safer Neighbourhoods teams in enhancing the service the MPS gives to the public.

There are now over 1000 Met Volunteers operating across all 32 London boroughs, through a network of borough MVP managers whose role is to recruit volunteers, find them a role to assist with, and support and motivate them.



People volunteer with the MPS for many reasons, for instance:

- They want to give something back to the community
- They want to assist the police but are unable to commit to full time hours
- They have skills and experience that they want to put to use for the police
- They have spare time (they may be retired or have children who have recently left home) which they want to put to use
- They are looking to see if the MPS might be their employer of choice

The MVP has been described by Volunteering England, as:

**"the best volunteer programme of its kind in the public sector."**

For more information on Safer Neighbourhoods, visit

[www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods](http://www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods)

## About our volunteers

The MVP attracts volunteers from all backgrounds including the full-time employed, unemployed, retired people or school leavers; each with their own motivation for investing their time with the Met. So far the support of volunteers has helped out a variety of areas in the MPS, such as Safer Neighbourhoods teams and at police station front counters.



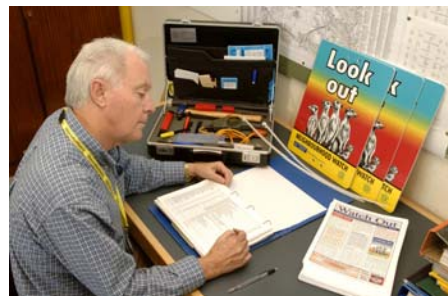
Tasks include maintaining databases, managing evaluation questionnaires, and general administration – in fact any projects considered suitable by the borough as adding value. The MVP will also play a crucial role in delivering the required volunteer resources for the MPS Olympic Security Directorate leading up to 2012.

## Volunteer Hours

Volunteers on average might contribute four hours a week, and certainly not more than 40 hours a month at a time to suit them, which might be during the day, evening or weekends. The programme is open to anyone over 18 who has been a UK resident for at least three years.

## Benefiting the Community

The MVP encourages closer relationships between the community and the MPS by involving a wider range of the community, whereby volunteers act as advocates for the police in the community based on their experiences. Volunteers increase the diversity blend of the MPS, and the MVP is particularly proud that its BME representation currently stands at 33 per cent, compared to the most recent London Census of 29 per cent (and the MPS BME mix of 11 per cent).



## Benefiting the MPS

Volunteers benefit the MPS in many ways. They bring a wide range of experience and skills to the teams that they support, and add value to the work of trained staff - freeing them up to concentrate on what they were trained to do, thereby enhancing service delivery and improving the customer service that the MPS provides to London's public. They take away the experience of seeing how hard the MPS works to make a difference, reducing their fear of crime as a result.



## How volunteers can help

Volunteers help their local Safer Neighbourhood teams in a wide range of ways, including:

- Ward newsletter - production and editing
- PR - press releases, liaison with local papers and MPS press liaison officers, collating press articles about Safer Neighbourhoods

- Recording and distributing minutes of meetings and agendas using the Safer Neighbourhoods office/base.
- Recording members of the KIN (Key Individual Network) on the Safer Neighbourhoods database
- Distribution of Safer Neighbourhoods newsletters via email or fax from the team office.
- Office admin – answering phones and taking messages, administration tasks
- Surveys – recording information provided on questionnaires

To find out more about the Met Volunteer Programme, and for contact details of your local borough MVP manager, you can call 0845 727 2212 or visit our website:

[www.metpolicecareers.co.uk/volunteers](http://www.metpolicecareers.co.uk/volunteers)

