

***“It’s rewarding, feeling that we have given some support and help when people are vulnerable”***



Ellen has been an ICV for more than two years. She was looking for a volunteering opportunity when she heard of ICVs and thought it would be interesting and worthwhile. Ellen is on the rota and carries out visits as an ICV once or twice a month. She says:

“Visits can take anything from 20 minutes to two hours, depending on how many detained people are in custody but usually, it takes around an hour.

“We talk to the detainees, asking them if they have been given and understood their rights, whether they have had medications and need to see a doctor, telling ladies that if they need sanitary products and we check that people are happy with the way they have been looked after.

We also ask the detainee if we can check their custody record and if there is anything they would like to ask us.

“I would most definitely encourage anyone to become an ICV. It’s rewarding feeling that we have given some support and help when people can be feeling at their most vulnerable. I really enjoy it.”