# **Prison Visits Volunteer - Playworker**

**Location**: HM Prison Addiewell Visitor Centre, 9 Station Rd, Addiewell, West Calder EH55 8QF. [**See map here**.](https://www.google.com/maps/place/HMP+Addiewell/@55.846064,-3.600638,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m6!3m5!1s0x4887df7381a6c695:0x9eedeb6d9b01fb9b!8m2!3d55.846064!4d-3.600638!16s%2Fm%2F0glphwc?entry=ttu&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MDIxNy4wIKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D)

**Time:** You can join us on Saturday and / or Sunday morning from 9.30am to 12.30pm. This would be for the full three hours.

We are flexible on which day(s) you join. We would prefer if you could support our play sessions at least twice a month. Let us know your availability and preferences.

We welcome a taster session, if you would like to see and get a feel for the place and people first. Just get in touch with us to arrange this.

## **How do we help at HM Prison Addiewell?**

Our support at the prison in Addiewell is part of our work to keep families together.

We understand the impact of relationship breakdown. We know how to offer support to families struggling to maintain a connection when a family member is in prison. It can be a highly emotional and stressful time, with lots of additional pressures on family members.

From their [**Visitor Centre**](file:///C:/Users/LesleyFrameWhitelaw/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/D1XK9P46/HMP%20Addiewell%20Visitor%20Centre), we support families visiting loved ones with emotional support and a listening ear when people need it most. We offer information, advice, comfort and link families to local services. We are there to offer a confidential and supportive environment to anyone struggling with adjusting.

The family member in prison can also request bonding visits with their children. This takes place within the prison, and not in the visitor centre. We support the visits by providing meaningful activities and encouraging interactions like having breakfast together. We also host seasonal family events throughout the year.

## **What will you do as a volunteer?**

You will help our team with the family bonding sessions and / or play activities that we offer families within the prison. Your tasks can include:

* assisting children during their visit
* supporting families with play and wellbeing ideas
* reading, drawing and playing games with the children.

We will provide support and training needed for you to engage with the tasks and children in a safe manner. This includes completing mandatory training of the prison within the first few months of starting, as you will be volunteering next to prisoners. We can provide further information about this, if requested.

## **What can you gain from this volunteering opportunity?**

* Meet new people and be part of a supportive team
* Develop your interpersonal skills being engaged with families
* Learn how a local Scottish charity engages with different community work
* Develop your skills in engaging directly with children
* Grow your skills in working together with people of all backgrounds and with different support needs
* Gain further understand of a criminal justice environment and its impact on families.

## **Does this sound like you?**

Everyone is welcome to join and get actively involved supporting families at the prison as a volunteer.

If you…

* are over 18 years old
* enjoy engaging with people of many different backgrounds
* are friendly, easy to approach and reliable
* do not mind taking initiative
* enjoy working together in a team
* understand the importance of boundaries and how to respect these
* are sympathetic to the needs of the families attending
* can remain calm in a busy environment (can sometimes be busy at the centre)
* are happy to engage with individuals who may have different support needs
* do not judge and respect confidentiality
* are patient and respectful of everyone at the visitor centre and prison.

Then let us know your interest and get in touch by filling in the online form. We can then arrange a chat to get to know each other better, and we can offer more information about the place and volunteering opportunity.

## **Your accessibility**

Please let us know in the online form, if you need any support or adjustments to make our first chat together and volunteering a positive experience for you.

If you for any reason cannot fill in our online form, not to worry. Please reach out to us on 01506 874 500 (extension 3914). Ask for Lesley.

You are also welcome to submit a short video (MP4 format) via our online submission tool instead. Please include the information that we ask for in our ‘interest form’.

Any expenses for helping with these activities, which have been agreed, will be paid back to you. We offer £5 to cover travel costs for every time you volunteer. We provide a meal for all volunteers joining for over 4 hours at one time.

There is free parking by the prison visitor centre, including disabled parking. The visitor centre is with full wheelchair access to the visit halls and accessible toilets.

The prison is located within walking distance from Addiewell train station. However, this station is not always easy to reach. It will be easier if you have access to a car (your own or car share), as it is in a remote location.

We will ask you for the contact details of a person, who you have known for more than 6 months (1 reference). If you need support identifying a reference, please let us know.

## **Keeping everyone safe**

You will engage with people, who are either young people under 18 years old and / or considered particularly vulnerable in our society. It is therefore required that you are a member of the [**PVG scheme in Scotland**](https://www.mygov.scot/pvg-scheme).

If you are not already a member, then we will process your application with you. There are no costs to you in becoming a PVG scheme member for volunteering.

You can read [**our safeguarding policy here**](https://cyrenians.scot/assets/000/001/672/Safeguarding_Policy_original.pdf?1729240047) that details our commitment to keeping everyone safe. It is expected of everyone to adhere to these commitments. We expect all volunteers to do relevant training, so you can help keep yourself and others safe from harm.