



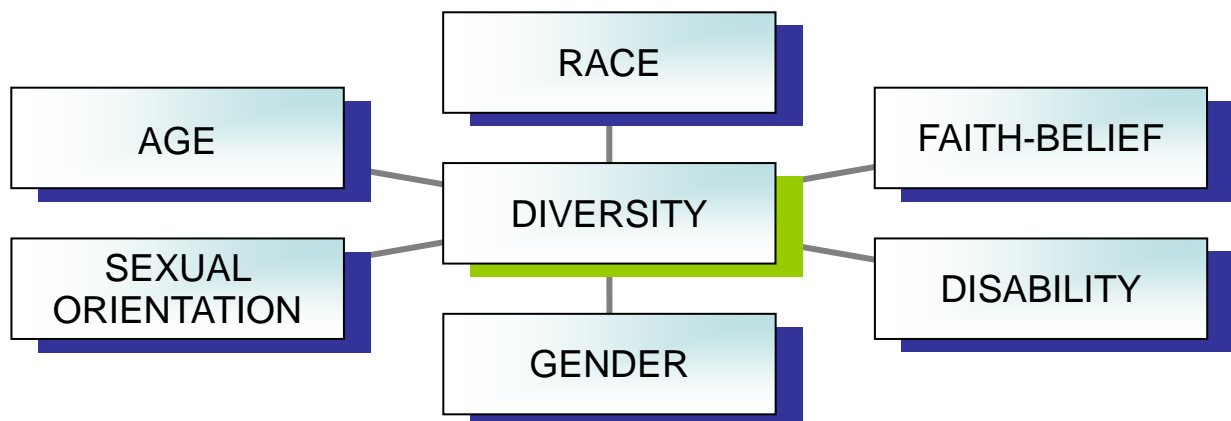
## Have your say and make a difference!

***Are you willing to give up some of your free time to help improve criminal justice in Wiltshire?***

***Do you have real-life experience of diversity issues?***

***Would you be willing to assess the way in which criminal justice agencies operate and offer your opinions?***

**If yes, we would like you to register your interest to become a member of the Wiltshire Independent Advisory Group (IAG).**



***The IAG was set up in 2007 by the Wiltshire Police Authority and the Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board (WCJB).***

***It now works with all criminal justice agencies in Wiltshire and Swindon.***

***The IAG aims to provide independent advice locally to the Crown Prosecution Service, HM Courts Service, HM Prison Service, the National Probation Service, the Police, the WCJB, Wiltshire Police Authority and the Youth Offending Service.***

***We need motivated and open-minded individuals to join the IAG and make a difference.***

**For more information, write to Steven Taylor, Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board,  
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***What is an Independent Advisory Group?***

It is a group of members of the community who provide independent advice to the criminal justice agencies and the Police Authority, with the aim of improving the quality of criminal justice services to all communities.

***Why independent advice?***

We are keen to make sure that we deliver the highest quality criminal justice to all of the communities within the area. However, we need the advice from members of the community to make sure that our services match the communities' needs as closely as possible.

***What is an independent advisor?***

Independent advisors may be any members of the community. They need to have an interest in the criminal justice system and its effects upon their community. We want the members to be able to offer suggestions about how things could be done better. Members' own experiences and those of friends and family may put them in a position to advise from experience.

***On whose behalf will independent advisors provide advice?***

We are asking for people who reflect the composition of our communities, not to represent it. Consultation through representation takes place in other ways. However, we may also ask advisors to speak with family and friends and ask them to seek their opinion, too. Ultimately, the only person an advisor represents is themselves. However, people from a community may have a better understanding of the issues affecting its members than someone who is not part of the community.

***What qualifications are needed?***

No formal qualifications, though we may ask advice on formal documents. An ability to understand English is essential. If the member needs to have the document in a specific format, we will endeavour to arrange for that to be done.

***What will the agency do with the advice?***

The criminal justice agency will carefully consider the advice and will be responsible for any actions it takes. Independent advisory group members will not be responsible for the actions of the WCJB. There may be occasions when the agency does not take action after members have advised them. This doesn't mean that we don't value the advice. We will explain this to IAG members.

***How often will the group meet?***

The group meets six times a year. As well as this, there may be times when the group will come together to provide advice on a specific issue.

***Will members get paid?***

An attendance allowance for IAG and reimbursement of expenses will be paid to members.

***Will there be any training?***

To ensure independence, we don't provide any structured training. However, we believe that it may be helpful for members to have an understanding of the criminal justice agencies. We will discuss what training is needed with the individual members and arrange for it to be provided as and when required.

***What rules are there?***

We have written guidelines and a code of conduct. These help make sure that the advice provided is truly independent.