

Visitors' Code of Practice

As a visitor with 'Larne House Visitors Group' I agree to:

1. Visit Larne House at least 6 times within a year or
2. Take on another role within the group (admin etc.)
3. Attend and contribute to support meetings, public events the group is staging and training sessions as much as is possible.
4. Abide by the organisational policies and procedures of the group (to be agreed)
5. I will respect detainees' confidences, keeping what they tell me within LHVG, unless they ask me to talk to someone on their behalf. However, if a detainee tells me something that I feel I need to pass on beyond the group - for instance, that they are under 18 or that they have been trafficked – I will discuss this with them, and will consult the group co-ordinator about how to proceed and adhere to best practice in child protection.
6. If I am concerned that the person I am visiting is in danger of harming themselves or others, I will notify a member of staff and/or communicate with centre management as soon as possible. This should be done with the detainee's knowledge and consent where possible; in the event that consent is not given I will act to protect the detainee and others at potential risk of harm. I will also let the group co-ordinator know what I have done and why.
7. I will be non-judgmental towards the person I am visiting, and all that they tell me.
8. I will treat any detainee I visit with dignity and respect at all times and try to empower them.
9. I will respect people's religious beliefs, political opinions and cultural practices and will not try to convert them.
10. Maintain appropriate boundaries relevant to my role as visitor (i.e. not giving legal advice, keeping all information given to me by detainees strictly confidential etc.)
11. Do my best to arrange for another volunteer to visit if I am unable to do so.
12. Write a few short notes after every visit, ensuring that the detainees' personal identity details are anonymised.
13. Notify and discuss any concerns or difficulties regarding any aspect of the visit or of those in detention with the group and/or group co-ordinator.
14. Adhere to the rules and regulations regarding visiting as set out by 'Larne House STHF'.