



association of **visitors** to  
immigration detainees

## Introducing the AVID Skillshare Programme!

### What is the AVID Skillshare Programme?

AVID's skillshare sessions are free, group sessions to support visitors groups by providing a safe platform to share and learn from one another on thematic topics of interest. As our membership is geographically diverse, these sessions will help groups and their volunteers come together on a semi regular basis to participate in peer learning, support and encouragement, and to share best practice or problem solve collectively.

Themes will be chosen by the membership, and can be on any issue, problem, activity or area of good practice that you would like to discuss with peers around the network. This could be discussion of a common practical issue faced by your visitors group, or to learn how another group works, or even to look at collaboration with another group on a particular topic of interest.

### Is it right for your group?

The AVID skillshare sessions are open to all members in the network.

These sessions will help all groups - whether well-established groups with years of experience, or new and developing groups – by equipping them with the experience and knowledge to help deliver better support to people in detention. The sessions will be as flexible as possible to provide for groups in all circumstances, and capacity. There will be plenty of chances to participate and input, for every group. Developed groups have much to share, but equally newer and volunteer led groups can bring fresh ideas and perspectives to a particular issue. We have much to learn from each other!

### How does it work?

- Sessions to be held on **every two months** in London, usually on a Monday evening.
- Each session will be based on a topic identified by groups in advance, and will last 1- 2 hours to allow the topic to be explored fully and to **discuss, explore, share, and collaborate** with others.
- AVID will host the sessions and provide refreshments. It is likely, depending on the topic, that there will be one or two groups leading the discussion or AVID can facilitate if necessary.
- We hope to encourage as many members to take part as possible, so that **there will be equal participation from diverse visitors groups.**
- We ask that all visitor groups taking part are willing to share their skills and knowledge with other visitors groups. We will help and encourage each to prepare to discuss of their way of working, pros and cons behind their approaches, share their valuable resources with others in the network, etc.

•Suggested topics might include:

- Practicalities of working with and managing volunteers
- Maintaining good boundaries: problems and solutions
- Volunteer support: best practice
- Good governance: what does this mean?
- Well-being of coordinators and volunteers

**In order to ensure sessions meet your needs and ideas, please let us know of any topics that you would either be interested in running, or taking part in, as a skillshare session.**

## Why get involved?

Our free skills sharing sessions allows you to get things done with the help and support of other visitors groups who have been there and done it before, or have new ideas and perspectives you may not have thought of. The benefits of skills sharing sessions include:

- Learning new skills
- Make use of other's knowledge and skills
- Developing your group
- Building your confidence
- Reassurance that you are headed in the right direction
- Strengthen the visitor groups network, and provide better support for people in detention
- Building your contacts and networks
- Finding a solution or for an unresolved answer
- Getting fresh perspectives on your visitors groups' way of doing things
- One off or continued support to suit your needs and possible collaboration work with others in the network
- It's free!

## The small print.....

These sessions are based on the ethos of visitor groups network: supporting each other, and collaborating. We ask that all visitors groups taking part are willing to share their skills and knowledge with other visitors group. We are also mindful that sharing knowledge and skills should be valued with integrity. We will ask all of our participants to treat the information shared with confidentiality and respect.

You are welcome to adapt the learnings that you might be come across in these sessions. But please make sure, where necessary that other visitors groups are acknowledged or credited where appropriate.

If you want to know more about the Skills sharing session, *please contact: Geerthanshan Manoharan, Training and Membership Coordinator: [gee.manoharan@aviddetention.org.uk](mailto:gee.manoharan@aviddetention.org.uk) 0207 281 0533/ 07896 847 526*