

## **APPENDIX 3**

## **APPROPRIATE ADULT TAYSIDE SERVICE**

Whatever the age, background, abilities or position of people within our communities, everyone is entitled to the same level of service. In particular, if a person becomes a victim of crime, witnesses a criminal act, or even finds themselves accused of committing a crime, each individual has the same rights as anyone else even though their needs may be different.

It is essential that all people who come into contact with the police fully understand both their rights and what is being asked of them. It is equally essential that the police understand what is said in reply.

The Tayside Appropriate Adult Service provides specially trained appropriate adults who have experience in working and communicating with mentally disordered people.

The term mental disorder includes people who are mentally ill, people with a learning disability, those with an acquired brain injury and people who have dementia.

The role of the Appropriate Adult is to act as a facilitator during any stage of police procedures. They will try to ensure, as far as is possible, that a person with a mental disorder is at no more of a disadvantage than any other member of the community when they are involved in police enquiries.

### **Who should be an Appropriate Adult?**

In Tayside the services of an appropriate adult can only be provided by individuals who are contracted to the Appropriate Adults Tayside service and have undertaken nationally approved training. They are mainly utilised during a police interview; this applies equally for victims, witnesses, accused and suspects.

Other police activities where the use of an Appropriate Adult may be indicated are:

- Fingerprinting
- Photographs
- Premises search
- Identification parade
- Intimate body search
- Medical examination
- CD Fit/E Fit interview

### **When is an Appropriate Adult required?**

The responsibility for identifying when an appropriate adult is required rests with the police officer who is dealing with the case, whether the person with the mental disorder is a witness, suspect or accused.

It should be emphasised that appropriate adults are now available for those with all types of mental disorder, for example:

- Learning disability
- Mental illness
- Alzheimer's disease/other forms of dementia
- Acquired brain injury

The police officer should also take into consideration the presence of any of the following in order to make their judgement as to whether or not an appropriate adult may be required:

- Excessive anxiety
- Unusual mood level
- Incoherence (other than that associated with controlled drugs/alcohol)
- Inability to understand
- Unusual behaviour
- Agitation leading to physical activity not in keeping with the current situation

When a police officer believes the services of an appropriate adult are required they will follow Tayside Police procedure to make the necessary arrangements.