

People recognise and value the contribution I make as a volunteer and my confidence and self-esteem have increased significantly //

Oya Erkan, Met Police Volunteer



Met Police Volunteer, Oya Erkan

Oya Erkan can often be seen on the reception desk at Muswell Hill Police Station.

On other days she volunteers at a new Met Police Information Desk in Haringey Council's Customer Service Centre in Tottenham.

She says: "In the Customer Services Unit I can meet people in a non enforcement location, providing information, collecting forms and taking reports of low level crime.

"On shift at the police station I deal with a slightly wider range of enquiries, such as lost property or general crime reporting."

Valuable experience

Oya, 27, was interested in joining the police and felt working as a volunteer would let her get a feel for the job.

So, although she has a full time job elsewhere, Oya is

now getting experience of policing and working with the public.

She says: "We have a monthly rota for shifts. Although I work full-time I can still fit in work, socialising with friends and volunteering because the volunteer hours are flexible."

Great way to learn

Oya has been volunteering since November 2007 and some people wonder why she does this without being paid. But she loves it.

Volunteers can claim travel expenses and a meal allowance provided they volunteer for more than four hours in one shift.

"In any case it's a great way

to learn about the police and meet lots of different people from diverse backgrounds," she says.

Besides the work experience, Oya has visited the Met Police Public Order Training Centre to see how officers are trained for public order events.

Certificates

She's also had lunch at Scotland Yard with Borough Commander Dave Grant and 50 other volunteers. Here they were all presented with certificates and thanked for their time.

Oya says volunteering has been a great experience and she is now keen to look to policing as a future career.

i For more information on volunteering, contact Zobaida Alam, Met Volunteer Programme Manager, Haringey Borough on

020 8345 2172 or email zobaida.alam@met.police.uk or click on

www.metpolicecareers.co.uk/volunteers