

HELPING PEOPLE LIVE TOGETHER

# Community safety officer



Crime, ASBOs, neighbours from hell: no one wants these problems on their doorstep. That's why the police, local authorities and social landlords are all working hard to stamp them out. Community safety officers are central to their efforts. You'd be responsible for devising strategies to tackle these problems, working in partnership with other agencies, dealing with those responsible and raising awareness of the work that's being done. Most of the work centres on developing plans to improve community safety but you may also have to take on detailed casework and present reports and witness statements in court. Some officers work in highly specialised roles, dealing with issues like domestic violence or gang crime.

## Degree needed

There is no required qualification, but employers will normally expect community safety officers to be graduates. Often they will have previous experience in a related field. Many community safety officers are qualified social workers. Others will have gained degrees in youth and community work, housing studies, or law. A number of specialist postgraduate courses are now available.

## Good courses

- BA and MA Social Work (Goldsmiths College, University of London)
- LLM master's degree in Criminal Justice (University of the West of England, Bristol)
- MSc in Criminology and Community Safety (Institute of Criminal Justice Studies, University of Portsmouth)

## Facts and figures

### Starting salary

Junior officers will start on around £22,000.

### Working hours

Usually 37 hours a week.

### Days' holiday per year

Minimum 25.



Nazia Matin at work  
Community Safety Officer, Hackney Council



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## Skills and experience

Problem-solving abilities and the capacity to work in cross-disciplinary teams with professionals from different agencies are important.

## Would suit

This is a job for someone who's comfortable working in a team in a challenging environment, and has the enthusiasm, knowledge and interpersonal skills to apply their expertise with a high degree of flexibility and sensitivity.

## Likely employer types

- Local authorities
- Community safety or crime reduction partnerships
- Police forces
- Registered social landlords (housing associations)

## How many jobs available?

Not known, but the number is increasing.

## Number of people employed in this field

The National Community Safety Network represents just under 400 members and organisations in both the statutory and voluntary sectors, all with a common interest in promoting safer communities.



Meet the expert  
Nazia Matin,  
Hackney Council

Visit [AskWhatIf.co.uk](http://AskWhatIf.co.uk) to watch video diaries and get opinions from other real people doing real jobs.



"I like to think I'm making a difference. Just knowing that a community safety officer exists filters down to communities and shows them their council is taking their welfare seriously."

## Did you know?

The profession of community safety officer has only existed for just over a decade, in response to growing concerns about antisocial behaviour and 'neighbours from hell'. In 1998 the Crime and Disorder Act placed a statutory duty on local authorities, police forces and others to form crime and disorder partnerships.

## More information

- The National Community Safety Network, a forum led by practitioners, is at [www.community-safety.net](http://www.community-safety.net)
- Extensive resources on crime prevention and reduction are available at [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)
- Information about the government's Respect campaign is at [www.respect.gov.uk](http://www.respect.gov.uk)
- For information about community safety and neighbour nuisance for housing professionals, visit the Social Landlords Crime and Nuisance Group [www.slcng.org.uk](http://www.slcng.org.uk)