

HELPING PEOPLE LIVE TOGETHER

# Police community support officer



Police community support officers (PCSOs) work to support normal policing by their sheer visible presence in towns, housing estates and shopping centres in the fight against anti-social behaviour. Their role is key in making communities safer as they help to reduce crime and fear of crime. PCSOs go on foot patrols, getting to know the community and dealing with incidents that don't need full police powers. They can be used to help with other police duties, like controlling traffic and stewarding public events. They also give talks to local groups on crime protection and safety. PCSOs need to be mature, confident and level-headed in dealing with difficult people and situations.

## Degree needed

There is no formal educational requirement for this post, but each applicant has to pass written tests.

## Good courses

Each police force develops its own training course, which is dependent on the responsibilities the force places on its PCSOs. Training takes five to six weeks.

## Facts and figures

### Starting salary

£16,000 is the usual starting point.

### Working hours

Normally 37 hours worked on a shift system.

### Days' holiday per year

Minimum of 21 days.

### Skills and experience

A PCSO should show experience and confidence in dealing with difficult people and complex situations, have the ability to communicate well and work as part of a team.



Thor Dale Elsson at work  
PCSC, South Yorkshire Police



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Thor Dale Elsson,  
South Yorkshire Police

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"We do what the police had time to do thirty years ago, bringing back that community service, building a rapport, rebuilding trust. Locals actually stop us and say it's great we're here."

## Did you know?

Many PCSOs have gone to work in other parts of the police service. Some have become full-time police officers and others have even gone on to fill civilian roles in murder investigation teams.

## More information

- You can find out how to become a PCSO at [www.policecouldyou.co.uk](http://www.policecouldyou.co.uk)
- To learn about the work of PCSOs visit [www.national-pcsos.co.uk](http://www.national-pcsos.co.uk)
- General information about careers in the police force is available at [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)