

Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee

21st September 2010

BRIEFING ON THURROCK-BASED POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Council is one of only three in Essex still to match-fund PCSOs, the others being Southend and Basildon. Since 2004/05, the Council has match-funded a varying number of PCSO posts. Currently this funding is for 14 of the 46 PCSO posts in Thurrock, at a total cost of £213,598 in 2010/11; the equivalent of £15,257 for each post. There are a number of other smaller PCSO schemes in Essex, including the 4 PCSOs funded by the Lakeside Shopping Centre to patrol exclusively within the boundaries of the centre.
- 1.2 Whilst PCSO powers are limited, they have been very successful locally as well as nationally in building up links with the community on behalf of the police. This has enabled the police, as a result, to respond more effectively to local issues, including anti-social behaviour, vandalism and other minor crime.
- 1.3 This short briefing note is prepared to provide Members with background information and to inform the work of the Task and Finish Group set up to evaluate the Thurrock-based PCSOs.

2. Background

- 2.1 PCSOs were introduced by the Police Reform Act, 2002 to complement and support regular police officers by providing a visible, accessible uniformed presence to address quality of life issues in the community and offer public reassurance. They don't carry the same equipment as police officers, nor do they have the same powers. Instead, they are used to deal with those tasks that do not require the experience or powers of police officers, freeing police officers to concentrate on other duties instead. The PCSOs also concentrate on building-up links with the community such that information is often more readily passed to them by members of the public than to police colleagues.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 In Thurrock there are 46 full-time PCSO posts, of which 14 are match-funded by the Council. They are deployed across the whole Borough in ward-based Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs), together with 18 community police officers, known as Neighbourhood Specialist Officers, each under the operational control and supervision of a sergeant, who allocates duties and tasks.

- 3.2 Whilst they can be transferred to assist in other parts of Thurrock temporarily as the need arises to support colleagues deal with major events or incidents, they spend the vast majority of their time in the same wards, getting to know the community and dealing with local concerns. They do this by working a 37-hour week on a shift pattern that begins no earlier than 8am and finishes no later than midnight, on a 7-day week rota.
- 3.3 By working within the NPTs, PCSOs are able to provide police colleagues with a direct and invaluable link to the community and to information they might otherwise not receive.
- 3.4 The performance of the PCSOs is routinely monitored and monthly data is forwarded from the Police. Attached on page 4 is the latest performance report, which is for August 2010. It will be seen that some targets are set for specific activities.

4. Powers of PCSOs

- 4.1 The close links the PCSOs have with police officers not just within their NPTs, but with other officers as well, also helps overcome the apparent limitations of not having the same powers as police officers to act independently. These close contacts enable PCSOs to call upon police assistance if required so that the police officers can use their far more extensive range of powers. PCSOs do nevertheless have a range of powers; these include issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for;
- Littering
 - Cycling on a footpath
 - Dog Fouling and breaches of dog control orders
 - Truancy
 - Graffiti/ fly-tipping
 - Failure to produce Waste Documents or authority to transport waste
 - Abandoning a vehicle
 - Certain disorder offences including those involving fireworks
- 4.2 PCSOs can also demand names and addresses for Anti-Social Behaviour offences. They can additionally seize tobacco from under 16-year olds and dispose of it and require person(s) to stop consuming alcohol in designated public places and dispose of the alcohol.
- 4.3 Finally, PCSOs have powers to stop and search under the Terrorism Act, 2000, when under the direction of a constable. The local knowledge built up by PCSOs from patrolling their local communities is

such that they well placed to notice the sort of incidents that might be of great significance.

4.4 A fuller table of their powers is set out on pages 5-6.

Jim Nicolson
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PCSO Report Thurrock District

August 2010

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Partnership Objectives	Agreed Target	Achieved
Total Hours Worked	4567.5 hours per month	4297.55
Other abstractions (hours) scene preservations, sickness, courses etc	x	770.5
Foot patrol on target beat (hours)	x	3214
Mobile Police Station duties (hours)	x	66.5
Number of community meetings attended	x	65
K.I.N.s contacted	x	353
Number of door knockings	20 per month	817
School visits	x	8
No of Council PNDs issued	x	2
No of Police PNDs issued	x	0
Alcohol seizures (no of people seized from)	x	39
Tobacco seizures (no of people seized from)	x	6
House to house enquiries (as a result of crime reported)		358
Assisted arrests	x	40
Number of repeat victims visited	x	280
Number of CID61 Intelligence forms submitted (general)	10 per month	106
Number of CID 61 Intelligence forms submitted (PREVENT)	x	3
Number of CID 61 Intelligence forms submitted (PPO's or core offenders)	2 per month	7
Number of stop and account forms submitted	10 per month	408
Number of Sect 59 Warnings and vehicle seizures initiated	x	6
Number of abandoned vehicles notified to council	x	20
Letters of appreciation / emails received	x	26
3VP Burglary Initiatives / vulnerable people - property	x	163
CLE 2/6 No VEL forms submitted	x	18
www.shapingthurrock.org.uk/safer		

PCSO POWERS

Power to issue fixed penalty notices for truancy: Power of a constable to give a penalty notice under section 444A of the Education Act 1996 (penalty notice in respect of failure to secure regular attendance at school of registered pupil) Paragraph 1(2)(aa) of Schedule 4 to the Police Reform Act 2002 (inserted by section 23 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003) (This would normally be done in conjunction with a education truancy officer)

Power to issue fixed penalty notices for cycling on a footpath: Power of a constable in uniform to give a person a fixed penalty notice under section 54 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 (Non endorsable fixed penalty ticket £30) in respect of an offence under section 72 of the Highway Act 1835 (riding on a footway) committed by cycling. Paragraph 1(2)(b) of Schedule 4 to the Police Reform Act 2002

Power to issue fixed penalty notices for dog fouling: Power of an authorised officer of a local authority to give a notice under section 4 of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 (fixed penalty notices in respect of dog fouling,). *The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 shall cease to have effect under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.* Paragraph 1(2)(c) of Schedule 4 to the Police Reform Act 2002. *Section 65 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, which repeals the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 (this would be a local authority Penalty Notice)*

Power to issue fixed penalty notices for graffiti and fly-posting: Power of an authorised officer of a local authority to give a notice under section 43(1) of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (penalty notices in respect of graffiti or fly-posting).Paragraph 1(2)(ca) of Schedule 4 to the Police Reform Act 2002 (inserted by section 46 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003) (check at division/ still to be issued)

Power to issue fixed penalty notices for littering: Power of an authorised officer of a litter authority to give a notice under section 88 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (fixed penalty notices in respect of litter). Paragraph 1(2)(d) of Schedule 4 to the Police Reform Act 2002 (*this would be a local authority Penalty Notice*)

Power to issue fixed penalty notices in respect of offences under dog control orders: power of an authorised officer of a primary or secondary authority, within the meaning of section 59 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, to give a notice under that section (fixed penalty notices in respect of offences under dog control orders.)Paragraph 1(2)(e) of Schedule 4 to the Police Reform Act 2002(see section 62(2) of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005)(This would be a local authority Penalty Notice.

Fixed Penalty notices for disorder for:

- Sale of alcohol to a person under 18 s169A of the Licensing Act 1964 or Purchase of alcohol for a person under 18 s169C(2) and (3) of the Licensing Act 1964
- Delivery of alcohol to a person under 18 or allowing such delivery s169F of the Licensing Act 1964
- Destroying or damaging property (under £500) s1(1) of the Criminal Damage Act 1971
- Breach of fireworks curfew Fireworks Regulations 2004 under s11 of the Fireworks Act 2003
- Possession of a category 4 firework Fireworks Regulations 2004 under s11 of the
- Fireworks Act 2003
- Possession by a person under 18 of an adult firework Fireworks Regulations 2004 under s11 of the Fireworks Act 2003
- Supply of excessively loud fireworks Fireworks Regulations 2004 under s11 of
- Fireworks Act 2003
- Wasting police time, giving false report s5 of the Criminal Law Act 1967 (£80)
- Using public electronic communications network in order to cause annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety s127(2) of the Communications Act 2003 (£80)
- Knowingly giving false alarm to a person acting on behalf of a fire and rescue authority
- s49 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 (£80)
- Causing harassment, alarm or distress s5 of the Public Order Act 1986 (£80)
- Throwing fireworks s80 of the Explosives Act 1875
- Drunk and disorderly behaviour s91 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967
- Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 or 169E of the Licensing allowing such consumption Act 1964 (£50)
- Trespassing on a railway s55 of the British Transport Commission Act 1949 (£50)
- Throwing stones at a train s56 of the British Transport Commission Act 1949 (£50)
- Drunk in the highway s12 of the Licensing Act 1872 (£50)
- Drinking in a designated public area s12(4) of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 (£50)

Thurrock Council FPN for Following:

- Depositing Litter
- Failure to Comply With a Street Litter Control notice
- Failure To Comply with a Litter Clearance Notice
- Failure To Produce Waste Documents
- Failure To Produce Authority to transport Waste
- Unauthorised Distribution of Free Printed Matter
- Failure To Comply With a Waste a Waste Receptacles notice
- Failure To Comply With a Dog Control Order
- Failure To Remove Dog Faeces
- Abandoning A Vehicle