

HUNTINGDONSHIRE POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

1 Introduction

1.1 September 2003 saw the introduction of 18 Police Community Support Officers Posts across the Huntingdonshire District. Seven based at Huntingdon of which two cover Yaxley and Farcet, six at St Neots and four at St Ives, with one vacancy.

1.2 The purpose of this document is to provide a general summary of PCSO activity since their introduction. This document is not to be solely relied upon for accurate activity analysis at micro beat level but as an overview of average resource usage.

2 Objectives

2.1 HDC and Cambridgeshire Constabulary have identified the following objectives for the PCSOs to work towards.

- To impact on low level antisocial behaviour
- To provide reassurance and reduce fear of crime in the community
- To provide traffic management by enforcement and education on road safety
- To reduce incidents of criminal damage, vandalism and graffiti
- To develop and optimise public interaction

3 Reality Check

3.1 PCSOs are assigned to specific geographical beat areas. They patrol these areas by foot, cycle and vehicle depending on the patrol purpose. Either in pairs, or working in close proximity with other PCSOs, Community Beat Managers and, Community Liaison Officers.

3.2 Sector Inspectors have overall responsibility for managing and developing PCSOs, however generally this has been delegated to Sector Managers who are responsible for supervising the Community Beat Managers and Liaison Officers.

3.3 PCSOs are tasked either through the Sector Managers, Patrol Sergeants, CBMs or CLOs. They are never directly allocated crime to investigate or deployed to incidents by the Force Control Room.

3.4 To impact on the above objectives PCSOs plan their work using data from crime pattern analysis, intelligence items, calls for service and community complaints via other reporting sources i.e. letters, emails, telephone calls.

3.5 This information is disseminated by Sector Intelligence Officers via Community Action Forums, the Divisional Intelligence Unit via the Briefing Database, and local supervisors.

3.6 Daily activities can be broken down as follows:

- High visibility mobile, cycle and foot patrols in areas subjected to youth disorder, antisocial behaviour, under aged drinking, high crime series.
- Traffic management through enforcement of parking regulations and education on road safety.
- Low-level crime investigation recording minor crimes, statement taking and house-to-house enquiries.
- Intelligence gathering from the community and Partner Agencies, such as HHP, Age Concern, HDC.
- Community Interfacing at organised events, police surgeries, i.e. Rural Issues Event held at Burgess Hall 26/01/04. Bringing representatives from HDC, Police, Fire service, CSW, to discuss issues affecting the rural community e.g. hare coursing, fly tipping, community safety issues, abandoned vehicles, and farm thefts.
- Partnership working with youth outreach workers at St Neots to address youth disorder involving Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Guardian Awareness Programme. Attendance at Parish Council Meetings, Watch meetings, and school liaison visits.

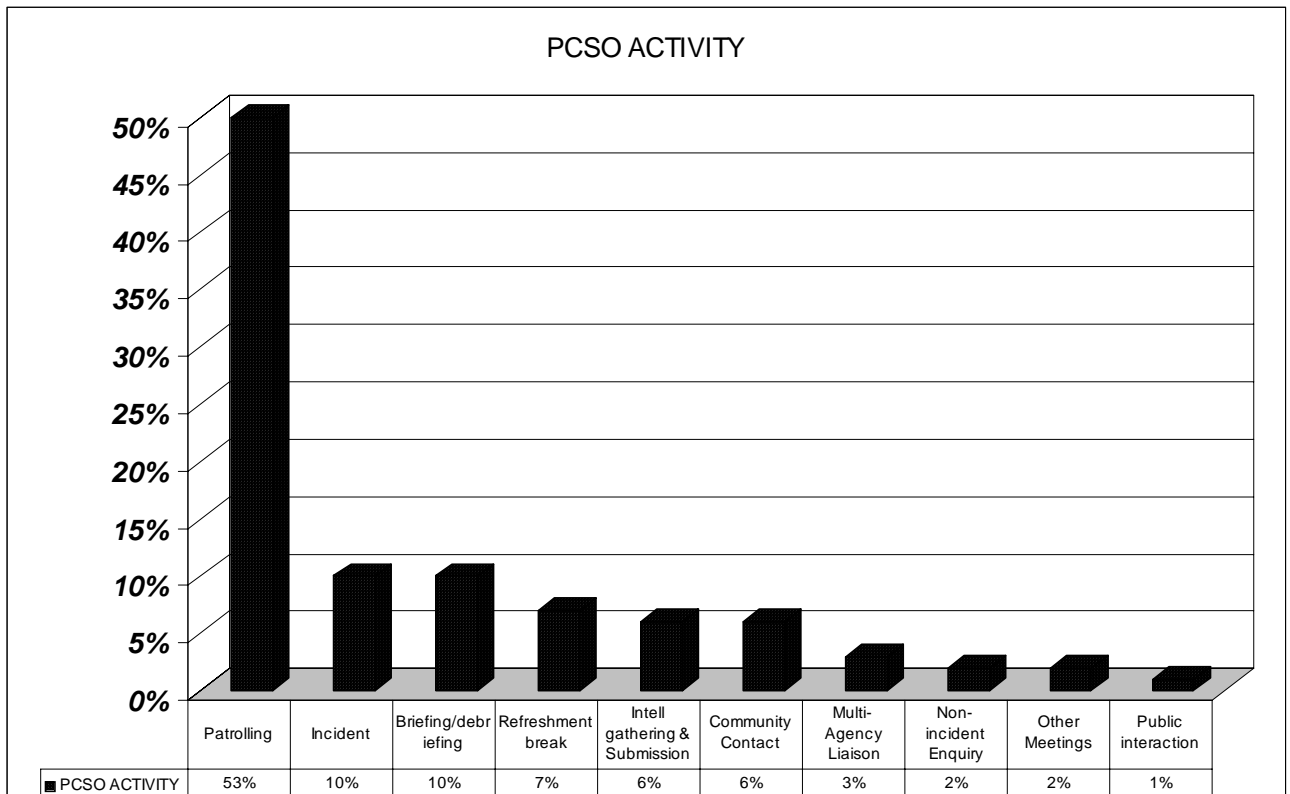


Figure 1: PCSO Activity Chart

4 Success Stories

- 4.1 PCSOs on patrol in Godmanchester saw a male acting suspiciously. He was observed and was seen carrying a large knife. It was reported to the force control room and the PCSOs maintained observations until police officers were dispatched to arrest the male for being in possession of the knife in a public place.
 - 4.2 An example of effective partnership working with local services. Following reports of nuisance youths riding the buses in Godmanchester, jumping out of emergency exits, lifting up the engine flap and acting in an antisocial behaviour, PCSOs liaised with the Bus company, rode on the buses and identified the culprits who were initially warned. They continued to behave in that manner and so names of the children involved were provided to their respective schools and parents received notification that they were banned from the buses, as a result the antisocial behaviour has ceased.
 - 4.3 PCSOs in St Neots whilst on patrol saw a vehicle containing a group of youths acting in a manner which led them to suspect illegal drug usage. Police officers were called and the vehicle and youths were searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act were found to be in possession of illegal substances, and were subsequently arrested.
 - 4.4 PCSOs in St Ives were on patrol with community beat managers and observed drug dealing taking place. They continued their observations until a sufficient number of police officers arrived, the persons were subsequently arrested, which later led to the execution of a search warrant at an address in Ramsey where further illegal drugs were seized and persons were arrested.
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5 Summary

- 5.1 The introduction and integration phase has on the whole been a success, with positive feedback from both local community, stakeholders and community leaders regarding increased visibility leading to renewed confidence and reassurance in the police and local services. However, it is evident that there is a need to balance the District wide approach to the management and deployment of the PCSOs taking into account local community needs.
 - 5.2 Aside from the need to agree and set SMART objectives, and regularly measure performance, there may be a need to agree and adopt a District wide PCSO Operating Model ensuring disparity regarding resource usage is kept to a minimum and the steer remains focus led.
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LIST OF OFFICERS: -

HUNTINGDON

ADAM RATCLIFFE
DEBBIE THORBURN
VICKI DOCKING
BARRY CHHAMBERLAIN
LEE MCDADE
SHIRALEE GEORGE
ANGIE WILSON

YAXLEY/FARCET
BRAMPTON/GODMANCHESTER
BRAMPTON/GODMANCHESTER
OXMOOR
YAXLEY/FARCET
OXMOOR
TOWN CENTRE/STUKELEYS

ST NEOTS

ALAN NEWMAN
SYD DAVIES
LAUREN BACHMAN
CAROLE CORN
CLAIRE REEVE
ROGER POOLE

TOWN CENTRE
EYNESBURY
EYNESBURY
EATONS
BUCKDEN
KIMBOLTON

ST IVES

DEAN DRAGE
JILL TIERNAN
LISA THOMPSON
BOB CARR

ST IVES
RAMSEY
RAMSEY
ST IVES