

PCSO FACTS



The primary role of a PCSO is to provide a highly visible reassuring presence within the communities of Derbyshire, working as part of a Safer Neighbourhood team to support the problem-solving initiatives developed by the team. PCSOs are required to have an online presence on social media and for photographs and information to be available to the public online (subject to risk assessment).

Below are some key facts about PCSOs:

Eligibility

Age limits

You must be 18-years-old. This is because some of the legal powers you will be given can only be allocated to people who are aged 18 or above.

There is no upper age limit for PCSOs.

Fitness test

Currently, you will need to undergo a medical screening process with our internal Occupational Health Unit, but there is no fitness test. However, bear in mind that you need to be fit enough to spend all day every day on your feet, out and about in your area.

Qualifications

Part of the eligibility criteria is to be educated to Level 2 in English and Maths as these will be required to access the national Level 4 qualification. Individuals also need to demonstrate examples of work and personal experience in order to meet the essential and desirable criteria.

About the Role

Working hours

The designated hours for a full-time PCSO are 37 per week.

Shift work

Shift work is required between 8am and midnight, seven days a week on a rotating shift basis. Some hours either before 8am or after midnight may need to be undertaken to meet operational needs, with appropriate notice.

You will also be required to work bank holidays.

Part-time working

Part-time applications are accepted, however, the 5-week training course needs to be undertaken on a full-time basis. The course runs Monday to Friday, and a full day must be worked each day.

Upon completion of the course you will be assigned to a place of work on a normal shift pattern.

We would ask that you request to work part time after your interview, you will still be required to work across the full set of shifts and work a pro-rata of weekends. Once we have your request we can review the number of hours that you can work this will then be considered and although we will make every effort to meet your hours, it will depend upon the particular operational requirements of the Safer Neighbourhood team in which you are based.

Where you will be posted

Applicants need to be aware that they will be expected to serve within the county of Derbyshire. However, every effort is made to take personal needs and circumstances into account where possible. It is worth noting that there will need to be a balance between personal and organisational needs.

Who you will be posted with

A lot of the work of a PCSO is done alone, although there may be times when you are partnered or in a group.

Development opportunities

As the role is so varied, you will have the opportunity to attend many different situations and work on different areas within your Safer Neighbourhood Team. There are also plenty of self-developmental opportunities within the force. If you do want to move on from the role of PCSO, there is often a range of varied police staff roles open for you to apply for.

As the role of PCSO is very different to the role of a regular force officer, there is no natural progression or easy entrance into the regular force.

Management

Your line manager will be a PCSO Supervisor and you will be working as part of a Safer Neighbourhood team which includes Police Officers, other PCSOs, Special Constables and Police Support Volunteers.

Entitlements

Annual leave

All new starters are entitled to 24 days per year.

Equipment

You will be provided with a uniform and items such as body armour, radio, torch and a pocket book holder. You will not be provided with any of the specialist equipment that is assigned to regular force officers.

Uniform

There is a specialist PCSO uniform (including stab vest) that will be supplied during the 5 week training period.

Pay

PCSOs receive a basic salary of £20,118 - £24,156. Successful applicants would normally be appointed on the bottom of the salary grade (exceptions may apply) and will progress through the salary scale via annual increases.

Weekend working and shift enhancements are available, depending on the hours worked.

If you require any further information on the role of a PCSO, please get in touch with our recruitment team at:

HRR@Derbyshire.Police.UK