

Police Community Support Officer Roles and Powers.

The primary functions of a PCSO are as follows:

- Providing a dedicated non confrontational visible uniformed presence.
- Supporting front line policing by undertaking tasks that do not require the full training and powers of a police officer.
- Building links with local businesses, traders and communities.
- Supporting neighbourhood policing teams in the reduction of crime, the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour.

PCSO's in Brighton and Hove have limited powers to ensure that they spend the maximum amount of time providing reassurance to communities. Where PCSO's have powers to issue fixed penalty tickets there are inevitable consequences of additional paperwork and the potential to be called for court or legal proceedings.

Below is a list of current PCSO powers:

Power	Notes
Issue of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) for public nuisance under Chapter 1 Part 1 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001*	These provisions are being piloted* *NB. NOT IN SUSSEX
Issue of FPN for truancy* , dog fouling, littering and riding on footpaths.	FPN truancy from 27/02/04* *NB. NOT IN SUSSEX
Power to request a name and address for FPN offences and offences that cause injury, alarm and distress to another person or damage or loss of another's property	
Power to request the name and address of a person acting in an antisocial manner	
Power to detain a person for up to 30 minutes pending the arrival of a constable (or to accompany that person to a police station with the person's agreement)*	Only available to 6 trial forces* *NB. NOT IN SUSSEX
Power to use reasonable force to detain a person or prevent him from making off*	Only available to 6 trial forces* *NB. NOT IN SUSSEX
Power to disperse groups and remove young persons to their place of residence*	From 20/01/04* *NB. NOT IN SUSSEX
Power to request a person to stop drinking in a designated public area and to surrender containers of alcohol	
Power to confiscate alcohol from young persons	
Power to confiscate cigarettes and tobacco products from young people	
Power of entry to save life or limb, or to prevent serious damage to property	
Power to seize vehicles used to cause alarm and distress	
Power to require the removal of abandoned vehicles	
Power to stop a vehicle for emissions testing	

Power to stop cycles From 20/01/04	
Power to regulate traffic for the purpose of escorting abnormal loads* *Regulate only, no escort in SUSSEX	This is the only power which can be exercised throughout England and Wales. Does Not apply to PCSOs in Sussex
Power to stop vehicles for the purpose of a road check* *NB. Only in the presence of a Police Officer in Uniform	No power to authorise a road check. This must be done by police
Power to maintain and enforce a cordoned area established under the Terrorism Act	
Power to stop and search vehicles and things carried by driver/passengers under the Terrorism Act and things carried by pedestrians*	Only in company of and supervised by a constable. *NB. NO POWER to search a person

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