

I have been tasked by the Confidence Delivery Board, chair ACC Beautridge, to consider the issue of PCSO powers, in my capacity as Strategy and Policy lead for PCSOs.

The possibility of extending PCSO powers within Kent could be achieved in two ways:

1. New powers are brought in by the Home Office
2. Kent explores those powers currently at the discretion of the Chief Constable that could be made available for PCSOs but which have not been designated thus far.

Given the timeframes involved Option 2 remains the only one that could be explored at this juncture.

I have attached two appendices to this report.

Appendix A details those standard powers given to all PCSOs in England & Wales.

Appendix B details those powers that are at the discretion of Chief Constables to issue.

The adoption of any, or all, of the additional powers would necessitate a change in all PCSO risk assessments as well as training on the specific issue, as well as altering the PCSO induction course.

As part of the action for the Confidence delivery Board I am working with each of our BCUs (Basic Command Units) to assess which of these optional powers may be considered as a worthwhile addition to the PCSO arsenal. Following this consultation I will submit a further report to ACC Beautridge for consideration, part of which will state that before adopting any new powers, if indeed that is the conclusion, research be done with those forces who currently utilise the power to assess its impact and usage.

I would however, conclude that the decision to adopt any of these powers rests solely, under legislation, with the Chief Constable of each force. These powers were assessed before and were not considered to be complementary with the community engagement, high visibility role that Kent utilises for the deployments of its PCSOs.

Report submitted for information

Barry Spruce

Head of the Extended Policing Family department