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Національної академії внутрішніх справ

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## **THE ROLE OF POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS IN THE UK**

Police community support officers (PCSOs), sometimes referred to as community support officers (CSOs) that work closely with police officers in the UK to keep their local areas safe. PCSOs play an absolutely vital role in offering a reassuring presence to the public, helping to fight crime and anti-social behaviour, and forge stronger relationships with the community PSCO serve.

PCSOs work in Safer Neighbourhood Teams to improve the quality of life for residents and make their area safer, by proactively tackling crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). They are out and about every day in every neighbourhood across the county – their faces are well-known and they are trusted in their communities. They also play a crucial role in identifying people who may be vulnerable to crime and finding solutions to help them.

As the UK experience shows, the Police Community Support Officers are rightly proud of the amazing work they do. Not only do they help increase public safety and maintain community confidence, but they make neighbourhoods better places to live and help young people make positive choices in their lives.

The duties of a Police Community Support Office include the followings:

- Being a visible presence in designated area, addressing crime, anti-social behaviour and quality of life issues.
- Contribute to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour by conducting high visibility patrols, responding to calls for assistance and enforcement of local bylaws and other offences.
  - Provide support to victims of crime through follow-up visits and keeping regular contact where required.
  - Building good community links to gain an understanding of crime and anti-social behaviour issues.
  - Forging strong relationships with partner agencies to tackle community issues and find long-term, sustainable solutions.
  - Support investigation processes by conducting tasks such as scene preservation, securing evidence, conducting house to house enquiries and providing reassurance.
  - Issue fixed penalty notices (FPN) for littering, breach of dog control orders and cycling on a footpath.
  - Require name and address where they have reason to believe a person has committed a road traffic offence, a 'relevant offence', a licensing

offence, an act of anti-social behaviour or is in possession of a controlled drug.

- Confiscate alcohol from persons in designated places and from under 18s, or anyone considered involved in supplying under 18s with alcohol.

- Seize and dispose of tobacco from under 18s and seize (controlled) drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

- Enter and search premises to save life or prevent serious damage to property.

- Seize vehicles used to cause alarm, distress or annoyance (s.59 Police Reform Act 2002).

- Remove abandoned vehicles.

- Stop bicycles, control traffic.

- Carry out road checks.

- Place traffic signs.

- Enforce cordoned areas under the Terrorism Act 2000.

- Photograph people away from a police station.

- Stop and search in an authorised area under the Terrorism Act 2000 if authorised and supervised by a police officer.

- Dealing with truants, graffiti, abandoned vehicles, litter and missing persons enquiries.

Police Community Support Officers spend much of their time on foot patrol, and are a visible, anti-crime presence in communities throughout Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Because they are so visible, members of the public feel comfortable approaching them with questions or worries about anti-social behaviour or crime. PCSOs don't have powers of arrest, cannot interview or process prisoners, cannot investigate crime and do not carry out the more complex and high-risk tasks that police officers perform

Thus, the Police Community Support Officers must be able to communicate effectively and calmly in difficult situations and offer comfort and reassurance to the public. Their duties and role are extremely essential in the society and local communities of any country. So, foreign experience of the PCSOs activity may be useful for implementing in Ukraine.

#### ***Список використаних джерел***

1. PCSO meaning. URL: <https://uk.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/pcso-meaning>

2. Police community support officers. What are they? URL: <https://www.gov.uk/police-community-support-officers-what-they-are>

3. Benefits of becoming a police community support officer. URL: <https://www.herts.police.uk/police-forces/police-community->