

# COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

## Agenda Item 32

Brighton & Hove City Council

### Report to Community Safety Forum: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011 Subject: Enhancing PCSO Powers

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**Wards Affected:** All

#### 1. Introduction and purpose of report

- 1.1 As part of the Neighbourhood Policing Review it has been recommended that PCSOs be given five additional powers to enhance their role and improve their problem solving capabilities. This report outlines those new powers.

#### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Community Safety Forum note and consider the information in this report and the likely implications.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Sussex Police Neighbourhood Policing Review conducted focus groups with PCSOs and it was evident that they were frustrated when they were unable to deal with some aspects of anti social behaviour and quality of life issues that are of concern to communities.
- 3.2 Research was also carried out with other forces many of whom already have additional powers. All forces found the additional powers beneficial.

#### 4. The five new discretionary powers

- The power to issue penalty notices for disorder. The majority of these would be for disorderly conduct or drunk and disorderly behaviour.
- Power to detain, this applies to a person whom a PCSO has reason to believe has committed a relevant offence and fails to give a name or address or gives one the PCSO reasonably suspects to be false. They can be detained for up to 30 minutes.

- Power to disperse groups and remove persons under 16 to their place of residence. This matches the power given to police officers under the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003.
- Power to search for alcohol and tobacco. This power can be used if persons fail to comply with two existing powers requiring under 18s to surrender alcohol or for persons to stop drinking in the designated public places order area .
- Power to issue fixed penalty notices for dog fouling. This will be increasing useful as PCSOs work more closely with council colleagues to deal with community concerns.

PCSOs are being trained to use these new powers in December 2011 and will be able to use them as soon as they have received the training.

## **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1 The introduction of these new powers represents an opportunity to show an evolving approach to dealing with community concerns together with colleagues in the police and council and is likely to improve community confidence. PCSOs have indicated a strong desire to add these powers to their capability in helping them deal with ASB and problem solving in communities with colleagues and partners.