Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Powers Summary

Miscellaneous powers

- **Power to enter and search any premises for purposes of saving life and limb or preventing damage to property**
- **Power to require name and address for relevant offences**
- **Power to require a person to wait for 30 minutes**
  PCSOs have the power to require a person to wait for 30 minutes if they have reason to believe that the person has committed a relevant offence ***AND*** *they have failed to comply with a requirement to give their name and address or who gives an answer which the PCSO reasonably suspects to be false or inaccurate. Both elements must be present.*
- **Power to require house to house collectors to provide their name, address, signature and certificate of authority**
- **Power to seize and retain materials and information relevant to the investigation of a crime when lawfully on any premises**
- **Limited power to enter licensed premises**
- **Power to enforce cordoned areas (Terrorism Act)**
- **Power to stop and search in authorised areas (Terrorism Act) under the supervision of a constable.**

Powers to issue penalty notices

- **Power to issue [local authority] Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)**
  These powers will only be relevant where the local authority has such a scheme in place and where it is agreed with the local police commander that PCSOs are authorised to issue local authority FPNs.
- **Power to issue Penalty Notices for Disorder for:**
  - sale of alcohol to a person under 18
  - purchase of alcohol for person under 18
  - delivery of alcohol to person under 18
  - drinking in designated area
  - Allowing consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises
  - sell or attempt to sell alcohol to a person who is drunk
  - breach of fireworks curfew
  - possession of a category 4 firework
  - trespassing on a railway and throwing stones on a railway
  - destroying or damaging property
  - causing harassment, alarm or distress.

Powers to require surrender of alcohol, search and seizure

- **Power to require persons drinking in a controlled drinking zone to surrender alcohol**
- **Power to require persons aged under 18 to surrender alcohol**
- **Power to seize cigarettes, tobacco or papers from a person aged under 16 found smoking in a street or public place**
- **Power to search for alcohol and tobacco**
  This power applies where a person has failed to comply with a request to surrender alcohol or tobacco. Consent is required, and it is an offence not to consent.
- **Power to seize drugs and require name and address for possession of drugs**
  This power enables PCSOs to seize illegal drugs if discovered during a search for alcohol or tobacco. It does not empower PCSOs to search for drugs.

Powers to tackle anti-social behaviour

- **Power to require name and address for anti-social behaviour**
- **Power to deal with begging**
  PCSOs can require a person to stop begging and if they fail to do so can require them to wait for up to 30 minutes for a police officer. If they fail to wait they commit an offence.
- **Power to photograph persons away from a police station** *(in connection with the issue of a relevant fixed penalty offence (i.e. PND and FPN))*
- **Power to issue a direction to exclude a person from an area, and surrender property (s35 and s37 ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014).**

Traffic and cycle related powers

- **Power to seize vehicles used to cause alarm**
- **Power to remove abandoned vehicles**
- **Power to stop cycles**
- **Power to stop vehicles for testing** *(by an authorised vehicle examiner)*
- **Power to carry out a road check** *(where authorised by a superintendent)*
- **Power to require name and address for road traffic offences** *This is limited to drivers or pedestrians that do not comply with the directions of a PCSO involved in the direction of traffic.*
- **Power to direct traffic and to place traffic signs**
- **Traffic warden powers** *including enforcement of specific offences.*

Power to issue FPNs for traffic and cycling offences:

- **cycling on pavement**
- **failure to comply with requirements about lighting and reflectors for bicycles**
- **failure of a rider of a cycle to comply with traffic directions**
- **contravening a bus lane**
- **stopping, waiting or parking at or near a school entrance** *(subject to agreement with local authority area)*
- **carrying a passenger on a cycle**
- **failing to stop for a police constable**
- **driving the wrong way down a one-way street**
- **sounding a horn when stationary or on a restricted road at night use on the road of a motor vehicle causing unnecessary noise**
- **not stopping an engine when stationary**
- **opening a door so as to cause injury/danger.**