

## PCSO Recruitment Campaign

Thames Valley Police launched a huge campaign on 14<sup>th</sup> August to recruit more than 500 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to support the roll out of Neighbourhood Policing across Thames Valley. They are looking for confident, level-headed team players with a mature and positive outlook on life. A good PCSO is able to communicate and empathise with people from different backgrounds in a range of situations and is approachable and able to focus on the needs of the community.

### PCSO CASE STUDY – PCSO Paula Boston

PCSO Paula Boston works in Wing, near Aylesbury, and is the Thames Valley Police PCSO of the Year 2006.

"I've always enjoyed jobs which involve working with people – in the past I've been licensee and have worked in restaurants – and when I saw the publicity for the PCSO role I was interested straight away.

"Doing something more community based and spending every day out and about with a real cross section of people is giving me the ability to make a difference. The community have been fantastic; they have welcomed me and have been supportive of me and my role.

"As a PCSO, my greatest power is communication. It is so important that I'm able to build relationships with a wide range of people – the public, colleagues and also other services like the council and the youth service. These relationships give me the ability to make changes by building partnerships.

"Getting to know the community helps you discover the issues and get involved in solving them. Here in Wing we had a few anti social behaviour issues. We got a community meeting together and managed to sort the problem out – the probation service assisted with removing graffiti and we are all getting together to campaign for a games area for the young people.

"If you are a people person and you want to make a difference, it is a fantastic job. You have the full support of everyone within Thames Valley Police and, after a few months, you have the whole community working alongside you too."

There are vacancies across all of the Aylesbury and Buckingham Police Area. If you know someone who might be interested in becoming a PCSO for Thames Valley Police ask them to contact the national recruitment line on **0845 600 0925** for an application pack or log on to [www.rewardingrole.co.uk](http://www.rewardingrole.co.uk) for more information about the role.

