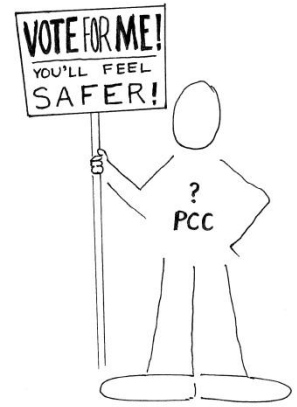


ELECTED POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS ARE COMING!!



WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

FEBRUARY 2012

What are the Police and Crime Commissioners?

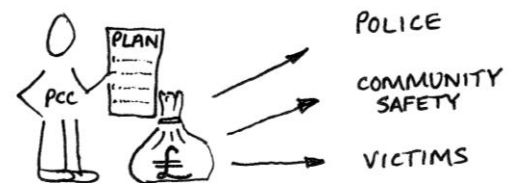
Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will be elected for the first time in November 2012 in England and Wales. One PCC will be elected in each of the 41 Police Force areas. (In Greater London the Mayor takes on the PCC responsibilities.) Anyone who can vote in a Local or General Election will be able to vote for the PCC.

What will the PCCs do?

The PCCs will oversee the **Police** and they will also set a plan for **community safety** in their area. The idea of elected commissioners is that they will be much more accountable to the public. They will have a duty to consult the public on their plans.

How much power will they have?

The elected PCCs will replace Police Authorities and will have much wider powers. They will be able to raise or lower the proportion of Council Tax that goes to the Police. They will also be given control of funding that currently goes to local authorities for community safety and crime prevention.



The PCCs will be elected for a four-year term and they will have to write a five-year Police and Crime Plan that sets out their priorities and what they will spend their money on.

There are a number of priority areas that the Home Office has set out that each PCC will have to address: Crime, Anti-social behaviour, Re-offending, Substance misuse, Violence against women and girls, **Youth Crime** and Diversity issues. PCCs will be required by law to consult the public on their plans but each PCC will be able to do this differently.

What difference will PCCs make to young people?

Young people are affected by crime and the safety of their communities as much as adults are. PCCs will be making decisions which affect the communities in which young people live and the priorities of Police who will interact with young people. PCCs have a duty to listen to the public – young people need to make their voice heard among all the different calls from different parts of the community.

Young people's legal rights:

"Governments must do everything to make sure children and young people are safe and well looked after."

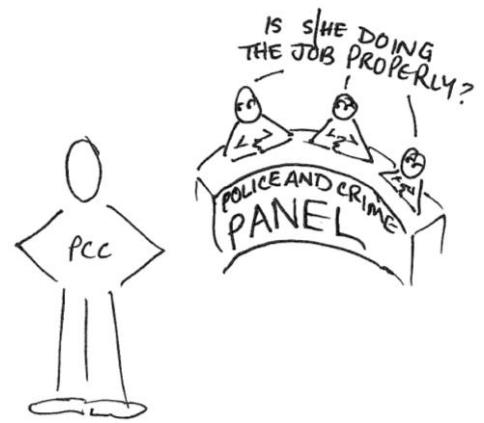
"Every child and young person has the right to express his or her views freely about everything that affects them."

"...wherever possible the right not to go to court or be sent to prison."

Articles 3, 12 and 40 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Who will oversee the PCCs?

The performance of the PCCs will be overseen by a new **Police and Crime Panel** in each Police Force area. The Panel will monitor whether the PCC is doing their job properly. But they won't monitor how well the Police Force is doing or any other work the PCC has commissioned. There will be a small number of places for on each Panel for anyone they want to appoint – in theory this could be a young person.



How can young people engage with PCCs?

NCVYS and CWVYS are working to promote young people's engagement with PCCs. Other organisations are working locally to make young people's voices heard. Each PCC will have his/her own agenda, so all 41 of them need to hear young people's concerns for their own area. But young people need to have a collective voice in order to be heard. Young people, working together, might think about: young people's hustings and invite candidates; a shadow young PCC through the youth council or parliament; or a youth manifesto.



Who has produced this briefing?

This briefing is written by the Safer Future Communities project run by a partnership of voluntary sector organisations to help people engage with the new PCCs. If you want to know more or to get involved contact:

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For more information visit www.clinks.org/services/sfc

SAFER FUTURE COMMUNITIES
Empowering local voluntary & community partnerships

