

# Serving local communities as a neighbourhood police officer

Published on 21 August 2020

Being on the beat involves patience, intelligence gathering and early intervention to help prevent crime

Case study 1 min read

PC Matt Eld really enjoys his role as a neighbourhood police officer – connecting with the local community, working closely with other agencies and being inspired by some of his colleagues who have been on the beat for many years.

*It's very diverse. You can in many respects focus on what your interests are to a degree, y'know, you're proactive, you can attend emergency calls but at the same time you may be going to a local school to deal with a vulnerable child. So there isn't necessarily a set plan on what you will do.*

**PC Matt Eld**

Hear from Matt about his role in neighbourhood policing, and how he learned Polish to help him build relationships with new communities in the area.

After doing his A-levels and working part-time in retail, Matt – who had wanted to be a police officer since he was a child – became a police community support officer (PCSO) at the age of 18, where he developed his communication skills and confidence.

He became a PC and then served for a short time as a response officer, before returning to neighbourhood policing and the close links he had built with the local Leicestershire community.

He says: 'The main thing I really enjoy about being a police officer is engaging with the community, you know, getting to know people, that's what I like about it.'

And that commitment has been recognised, after Matt won the NPCC's Community Police Officer of the Year award in 2019.

Find out more about the [neighbourhood policing career family pathway](#) and the [neighbourhood policing inspector role profile](#) (you will need to log in to College Learn).

Discover the [different ways you could work for the police](#) and be a [force for good in your community](#), a force for all.

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