

It's all about the talent

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'Ello, 'ello, 'ello...what's going on 'ere then?

Posted by *AnnieM* on July 27, 2010

Ever thought about joining the police? Considering volunteering in your community? Now you can do both. In one of the first initiatives to spring from Cameron's *Big Society* idea, civilian policing is about to get, well, big. Or so they hope. Some call it DIY policing, some call it a money-saving con. Some even call it the worst thing since unsliced bread. But whatever your views, it's set to get debating tongues wagging from both sides of the fence.

Police volunteers isn't by any means a new fad. It's been possible to volunteer with the police for years. But this new shake up, which will involve creating a bank of police volunteers – or reserves – who will work alongside police officers as community crime fighters, is set to encourage even more people to volunteer for their local police force.

The government has yet to announce the exact role a police reserve will have, but some ministers have hinted that some members of the public could help with '[joint patrols with the police, looking out for their neighbours](#)' .

In addition to the hyped-up police volunteering initiative the big shake up will also see:

- Directly elected police commissioners who will oversee chief constables.
- Commissioners for every police force across England (apart from London) will be elected in May 2012 for a term of four years with a two-term maximum. London's Metropolitan Police Commissioner is already appointed by the Home Secretary and the Mayor.
- Police Authorities will be scrapped. Instead, the Police and Crime Panel will oversee each force's commissioner.
- National Crime Agency (NCA) will be created in 2013 and will include Serious Organised Crime Agency (Soca) and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre.
- The NCA will consist of two components: One – tackling organised crime and the other on border policing.

Although the new proposals are part of the Government's plans to cut 'red tape' bureaucracy within the sector, Shadow Home Secretary Alan Johnson believes that the plans would actually '[make the job harder](#)' for the police.

In other news...

The Government is to [cut a number of quangos](#) – and therefore jobs – as part of their cost-cutting drive. Soon-to-be-axed [quangos](#) , or Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB), as they are sometimes known include:

- Health Protection Agency
- UK Film Council
- National Patient Safety Agency
- Alcohol Education and Research Council.

Fed up with all this doom and gloom? I am. So why not put something back into your community whilst job hunting and [get volunteering](#) ? You never know, a permanent paid position could just come out of it.

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Big Society: The golden age of volunteering:

Posted by *AnnieM* on July 20, 2010

What's the big idea?

Prime Minister David Cameron has called on “forward-thinking entrepreneurial community-minded people” to come together to set up [community-building schemes for local areas](#) . Part of a revisited pre-election pledge (that didn't inspire much excitement at the time) Cameron's Big Society aims to draw on the voluntary services of Britain to deliver public services – for free.

Where is it being tested?

The idea will be trialled in four areas: Liverpool, Windsor and Maidenhead, Eden Valley and Sutton.

How does it work?

Each area being trialled will be allocated an ‘expert organiser’ and a number of civil servants. Residents with ideas on how to improve their local area will approach the organisers and civil servants who will see the ideas through to fruition.

Prime Minister David Cameron said in his (re)launch speech: “If you've got an idea to make life better, if you want to improve your local area, don't just think about it – tell us what you want to do... Whether it is in building affordable housing, tackling youth unemployment, or inviting charities to deliver public services.”

What are the critics saying about it?

At a time when the public sector is starting to feel the pinch, the Big Society initiative is being greeted with much cynicism. Many feel it is an underhand way of delivering vital public services for free, under the guise of volunteering. There is no question that it will save money in the long run, but some voluntary groups are wanting to know where the funding for these schemes will be found.

There is also the fear that if the schemes don't work, it will pave the way for private companies to take over the running of public sector organisations. If that happens, the sector will be one step closer to becoming profit-making machines that cuts corners on service delivery. You only need to look at the [Railtrack story](#) to see how that works.

Yet Cameron and his Government believes that in five or ten years time people will look back at the Big

Society concept and see it as something that changed the face of Britain. “When people look back at this, they will say, ‘they didn’t just pay down the deficit, they didn’t just balance the books, they didn’t just get the economy moving again, they did something really exciting in our society’.” He added: “I think we’re on to a really big idea here, a really exciting future for our country and today, I hope, it’s one more big step towards that goal.”

Potentially, the idea is an exciting one: it could indeed become the golden age of volunteering in Britain. But in the cold light of day, with public services already tightening their purse strings, it could mean resources in the sector become even more stretched under the scheme.

As [Ed Miliband says](#) in *The Mirror*, “This is a 19th century or US-style view of our welfare state which is: cut back the welfare state and somehow civic society will thrive.”

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[Jobs of the week](#)

Posted by *AnnieM* on July 13, 2010

This week, we thought we’d do something a bit different. We’ve hand picked some great jobs that are currently on the site and are waiting for perfect applicants like you.

Pre-entry level

[Kitchen Assistant](#)

Location: Runnymede, Surrey.

Experience: None required – full training is given.

Salary: £7,500 per annum for 20 hours a week.

The role: Assist with kitchen-related duties in a day centre, which caters for over 100 retired people.

Closing date: 20th July.

Entry level

[Graduate Trainee at Harrogate Borough Council](#)

Location: Harrogate

Experience: Recent graduate. Full training will be given.

Salary: £15,725

The role: Work as a trainee within different departments of local government to develop self confidence and experience.

Closing date: 23rd July.

Junior level[Level 1 Qualified Teaching Assistant](#)

Location: Derby

Experience: Worked with children with special educational needs and good knowledge of Early Years development. Post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Salary: £15,725-£16, 830.

The role: Supporting young children with special needs.

Closing date: 16th July.

Senior[Senior Social Worker](#)

Location: Birmingham

Experience: Essential qualifications: either DipSW, CQSW, CSS or equivalent social work qualification, plus registration with the General Social Care Council (GSCC). Must have substantial experience in children and family work including in-depth knowledge of child protection procedures.

Salary: £31,754-£38,961.

The Role: Working within the Adoption and Fostering teams you will monitor assessments and child placements, whilst liaising with other local authorities.

Closing date: 23rd July.

Managerial[Part time IMCA Manager for South of England Advocacy Projects \(SEap\).](#)

Location: Tonbridge and Kent and Medway.

Experience: Managerial experience ideally within the field of advocacy. Clear understanding of IMCA and DoLS legislation and practice.

Salary: £28, 636

The Role: Implement relevant policies and procedures. Mentor and encourage the organisation's advocates, who in turn support and represent vulnerable people.

Closing date: 26th July.

Director[Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services](#)

Location: Kingston Upon Hull

Experience: Highly experienced with a strong track record of success in a similar urban setting.

Salary: £123,000

The Role: Play a lead role in tackling deprivation, whilst creating opportunities across the city of Hull. To improve service delivery, and to implement further development within the Children's Services department.

Closing date: 6th August.

So, what are you waiting for? Good luck!

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Talent: what's yours?

Posted by *AnnieM* on July 06, 2010

Are you news-savvy? If you are, you would have noticed the consistently depressing public sector stories that are prevalent in the media right now. Community Secretary Eric Pickles, [attacking councils for their 'non jobs'](#), the capping of [civil servant redundancy payments](#), the [civil service strikes](#), the warning over [600,000 public sector job cuts](#). As a full-time job seeker the news is certainly depressing. You'd be forgiven for thinking that now would not be a good time to enter public sector employment, or that those in public sector are only looking for a particular type of person.

But at Jobsgopublic, we are trying to change all that. We believe that every person brings their own unique skills and abilities regardless of background, ethnicity or religion. Indeed, there are often vast talent pools within social groups that are overlooked because employers are sometimes too specific as to the type of person they are looking for. But this is changing. Jobsgopublic believe that talent should be upheld for everyone and we are passing this on to our public sector clients. Employers are starting to look outside the box and embrace talent from all backgrounds and professions. It's not just transferrable skills: it's about ability and knowledge, too.

Because there is talent in every candidate, as a job seeker, it is important to think about your own unique talent when filling out application forms. Be clear about yours. What is amazing about you? What skills can you bring to the role? What makes you different to the other candidates? Important questions, and ones that should be thought about. So remember, put your talent on the table (as it were) and let employers see it.

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