

A Day in the Life

Jim Porteous

Community Safety Officer



What made you become a police officer?

I had always wanted to be a police officer, however the opportunity did not come along until I was 29 years old and at that time there was still an age limit.

What does your current job involve?

I work in the Community Safety Unit at Stranraer and my beat includes Dickshill, Belmont and Ochtrelure. This is a large area which is undergoing a process of regeneration and a large part of Dickshill will be demolished and rebuilt. I have a number of ongoing projects involving schools in the area and I am working on a crime prevention/reduction project concerning the decanting and demolition phase for the neighbourhood.

What is the best part of your job?

Making a difference. Being able to go out and work with partner agencies to solve a problem in the community and making everyone's life happier is very satisfying. A recent example is the youth project carried out in Ochtrelure which was in response to concerns regarding antisocial behaviour.

What is the worst part?

Dealing with the consequences of sudden deaths and fatal road traffic collisions is difficult. Going to a home to pass on bad news is always hard, especially if the dead person is a son or daughter.

Do you have any funny stories about the job?

In Stranraer the police always attend London Road playing fields when the air ambulance is landing/taking off. As a joke, the new probationer was often sent out with two table tennis bats to guide the helicopter in.

Do you have any advice for anyone joining the police?

It is a good career that provides many different opportunities and experiences. The best part is not knowing what you will be doing next; the only routine is there is no routine.