Unit 6: The Role of the PSNI

Active Citizenship

Lesson 3: Community policing

This lesson invites pupils to put themselves in the shoes of a member of the PSNI working within local communities. It requires pupils to think about the things that make the job of a community police officer easier or more difficult. They then explore different ways to overcome the difficulties and encourage more positive behaviour.

Planning

Prior Learning	Pupils should have gained prior knowledge and understanding of: • democracy and the rule of law; • active citizenship; and • justice and lawfulness.
Learning Outcomes	Pupils will be able to: • examine the role of a community police officer; • evaluate the role of a community police officer; and • differentiate between advantages and disadvantages of the role.
Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities Focus	Pupils will have opportunities to develop the following: **Managing Information** • Ask focused questions **Being Creative** • Learn from and value other people's ideas • Seek out questions to explore and problems to solve **Working with Others** • Listen actively and share ideas and opinions • Give and respond positively to feedback • Take personal responsibility for work with others and evaluate their own contribution to the group **Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making** • Justify opinions • Make links between cause and effect.

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Attitudes and Dispositions	Pupils will be encouraged to develop the following: • Openness to new ideas • Concern for others.
Resources	**Animation:** *The Role of the PSNI* **Unit 6: Lesson 3 Resource A – Four corners – what's your job like?** **Unit 6: Lesson 3 Resource B – Post-it task headings** Post-it notes Flip chart paper Pens NI Policing Board video available on YouTube: Local Policing: Delivering for communities? www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4aU54kDr0o

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Suggested teaching and learning strategies

Launch

Lead a class discussion, using prompt questions and effective questioning techniques:

1. **What is the role of the PSNI?**
2. **What do you know about the role of the PSNI within your communities?**
3. **If you see the police in your local community, what is your first thought and why?**

Familiarise your pupils with what a community officer is:

A community police officer provides support in crime prevention, investigation and response where full police powers are unnecessary and assists police officers in upholding law and order.

You may now wish to show the animation *The Role of the PSNI.*

Possible answers and discussion points:

1. *To protect life and property, prevent crime and detect offenders*

2. *Sometimes they patrol the areas and make sure that people are safe.*
   Sometimes they arrest people in the community and charge them for being criminals.
   Nothing – I don't see the PSNI in my community.

3. *Feeling safe, because they will deal with anyone who is hurting the community*
   Anger, because there is always trouble when they come into our community
   Fear, because they might be there to arrest somebody I know

Activities

Activity 1: What's your job like? (Four corners)

- Before the lesson, place one card from **Resource A** in each corner of the room.

- Play the [Local Policing: Delivering for communities?](#) video from **www.youtube.com**, then ask this question:

  'Imagine you are a member of the PSNI. What is your job like when you work with local communities?'

- Invite the pupils to move towards the card they most agree with.

- Facilitate a discussion on why the pupils stood beside the card they did, using effective questioning techniques.

Active Citizenship

Possible answers and discussion points:

– *My job is impossible because sometimes when I go into local communities people tend to have a negative reaction, and this makes it difficult for me to do my job.*

– *My job is hard because people won't listen to the help or advice I have to offer.*

– *My job is easy. I really enjoy my job when I work with local communities because I like to hear the perspectives of local people and see how we, as members of the PSNI, can help them.*

– *I think my job is OK most of the time because I have a lot of authority and can make decisions.*

Activity 2: Post-it note task

- Give each pupil two Post-it notes. Again, ask them to imagine they are a member of the PSNI working within local communities.

- Ask the pupils to write down one thing that they feel would make their job difficult and one thing which would make their job easier. You may wish to give them some prompts; for example, anti-social behaviour might make their job difficult and people looking out for their elderly neighbours would make it easier.

- Next, ask the pupils to stick their Post-it notes on the wall under the headings from **Resource B**.

- Read over the Post-it notes from the wall, and discuss the different ideas with the pupils.

- Choose three from each category to focus on for the next activity.

Activity 3: Helping make the job less difficult

- Divide the class into six groups.

- Give each group flip chart paper and one of the Post-it notes from the previous activity.

- If the pupils receive a Post-it about something that makes the job of the PSNI *difficult*, they should come up with as many ideas as possible for making that problem *easier*.

- If the pupils receive a Post-it about something that makes the job of the PSNI *easier*, they should come up with as many suggestions as possible for encouraging *more* of this to happen in communities.

- Each group should nominate one or two pupils to feed back their suggestions to the class.

- Encourage the pupils to ask further focused questions about each other's work to probe for more detailed explanations.

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Debrief

Discuss the following:

1. **Do you think community policing is an easy job? Why/Why not?**

2. **How could you make things easier for members of the PSNI working within your community?**

3. **In your opinion, what is the most important thing that members of the PSNI, working within your community, can do?**

Possible answers and discussion points:

1. ***Yes** – working with people in the community would be rewarding. You get to meet with lots of people on a daily basis and hear lots of different ideas and points of view, so the job would be very interesting.*
   ***No** – it would be difficult to work with people who don't want to work with you, and your job would be a real struggle when people in the community are against you.*

2. *Listening to what they have to say about how to make communities safer; keeping away from committing any crimes in the community*

3. *Listening to the people in the community and their problems and fears, and helping to solve them; putting criminals in prison so they are no longer on the streets committing crimes*
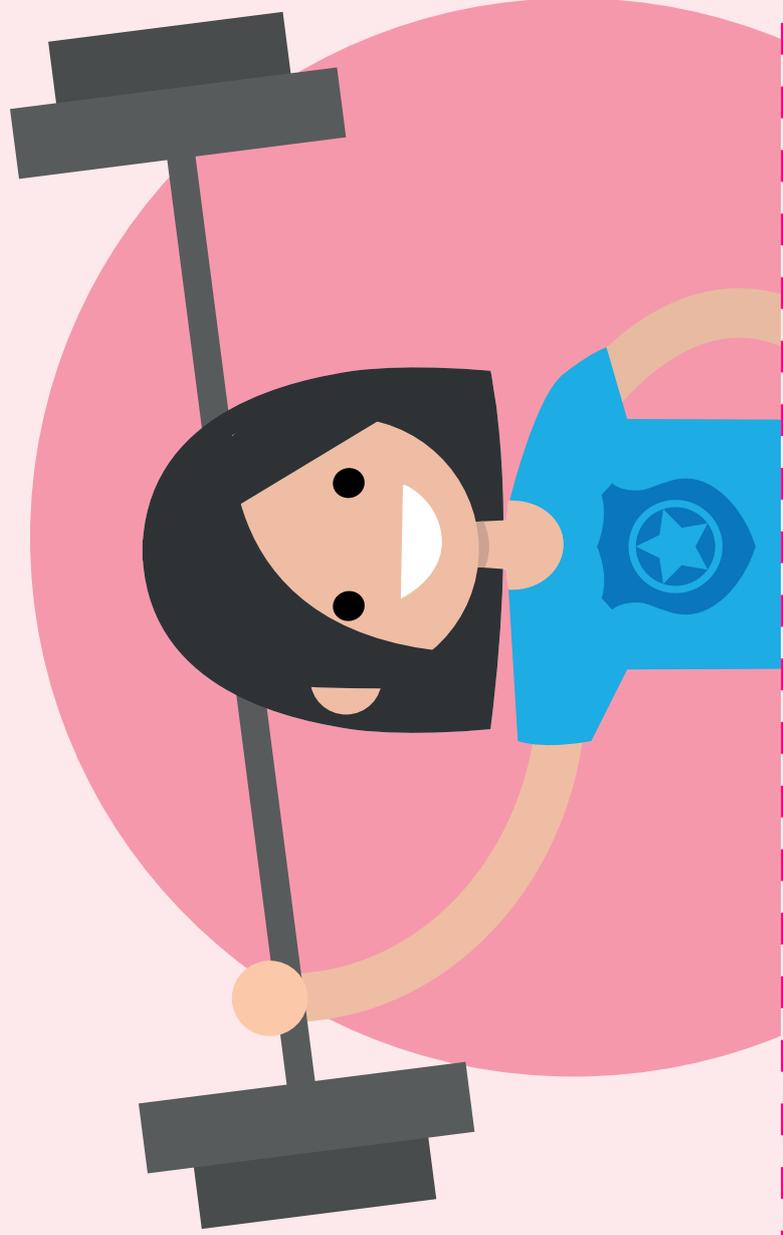
Unit 6: Lesson 3 Resource A
Four corners – what's your job like?

EASY

HARD

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Four corners – what's your job like?

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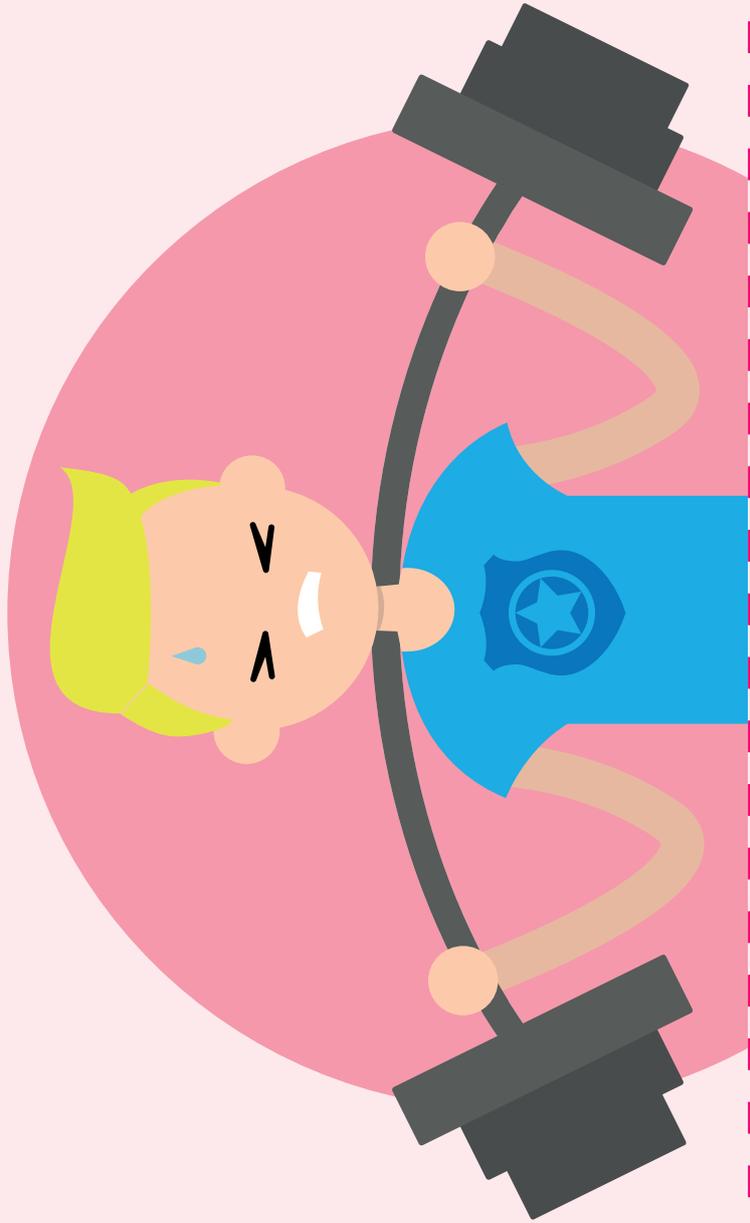
Unit 6: Lesson 3 Resource A
Four corners – what's your job like?

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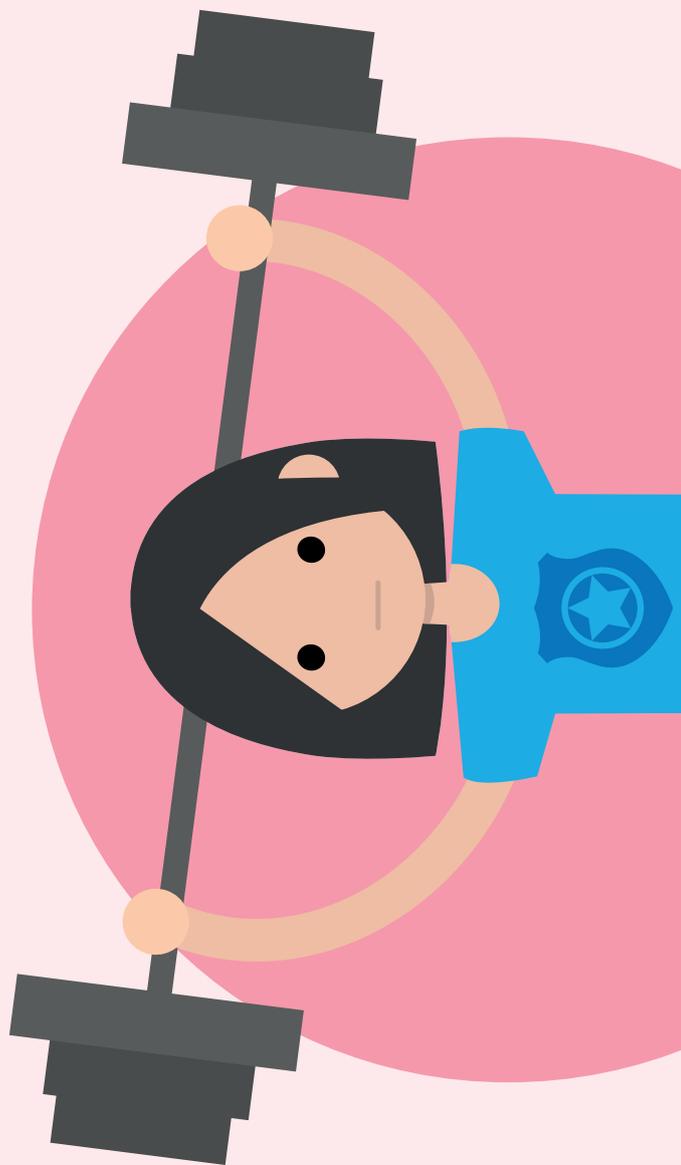
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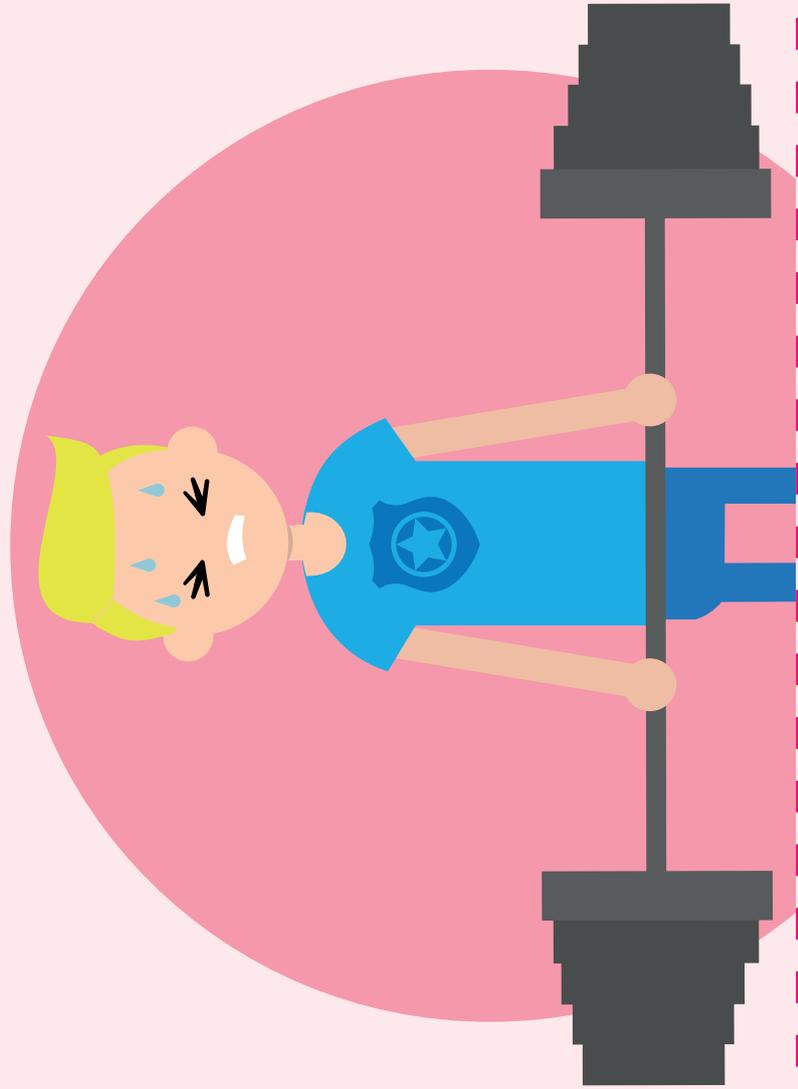
Active Citizenship

Things that make my job difficult
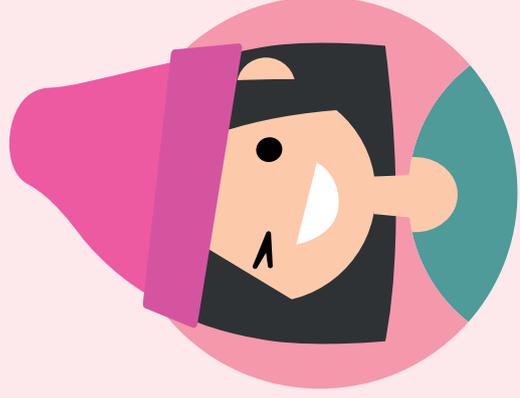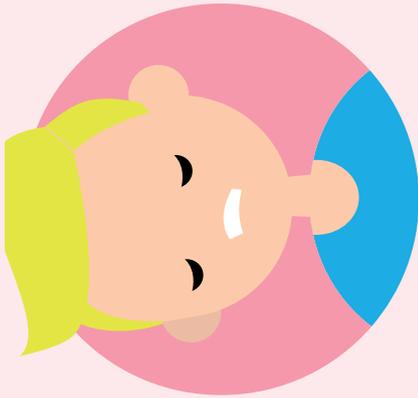
Things that make my job easier