

COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDEN: A UNIVERSITY STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

INTRODUCTION

In my final year of studying a Professional Policing Degree at Staffordshire University, I was given the opportunity to apply and be involved in a project by Red Snapper Managed Services. The project focuses on improving public safety by reducing anti-social behaviour and supporting vulnerable individuals in hot spot environments. I was attracted to this job as it requires similar skills as a police officer and would test my fortitude and desire to remain on this path, giving me an insight into working in the community and having added responsibility. The role would allow me time and to develop my skills whilst waiting to join Greater Manchester Police.

WORK SUMMARY

As a Community Safety Warden with Red Snapper Managed Services, my role is to patrol local areas, ensuring public safety and helping to deter crime and anti-social behaviour. I engage directly with the community, reporting any suspicious activity and assisting in resolving conflicts when necessary. I also provide support to vulnerable individuals connecting them to essential services. Working closely with the police and local authorities, I contribute to crime prevention efforts and share valuable information to assist with investigations.

MY FEELINGS ON THE PROJECT

I believe the project is expanding and gaining traction amongst the communities as an alternative option when they seek support or services. This role enables us to gain rapport in environments where the police may struggle and lets us talk more freely to people who may be going down the wrong path. We try to rehabilitate and support people who are struggling with substance abuse and criminal tendencies to allow them a better chance at life. This project has helped me see an insight into homeless and vulnerable people, and what a fraction of what their world can contain on a daily basis. The role has helped me see that not all things in this line of work are black and white but much rather different shades of grey. It is a difficult but extremely rewarding job and I'm grateful to have done this before joining the police.