

Title: **Case Study  
Public Services  
in Gloucestershire**

**Jenny Barnett** is aiming for a career in the police force after studying Public Services at college.

Jenny, aged 20, left Whitecross School in Lydney after her GCSEs – she admits she didn't get very good grades, including Maths and English. She knew she wanted to go to college, but didn't know what she wanted to do – though at the time she considered a career in the armed forces.

She found out about Public Services from Royal Forest of Dean College's prospectus. The course is designed to give you skills and confidence for careers in the uniformed and emergency services – for Jenny it was just right, with lots of practical experience that suited her personality.

Because of her GCSE grades, she came to college initially to complete the Level 2 First Diploma in Public Service – a one-year, full-time course. At the same time, she re-took English GCSE.

Now with the equivalent of five GCSEs, Jenny was able to start the Level 3 National Diploma in Public Service, a two-year, full-time course equivalent to three 'A' Levels.

She also took part in teamwork tasks with the Army, Navy and Air Force, including a five-day residential trip with the Army and a three-day stay on a Navy ship. And she has taken a leadership qualification and has studied Law, Major Incidents and Diversity in Public Services.

She says the Public Services course helps you grow in confidence – she had a lot of support from staff. You definitely need to be a 'team player' and be willing to take part in everything.

Jenny is now applying to join the police force, though she is finding the process very competitive. She has had one application rejected, but intends to reapply.

She aims to gain more life experience and is considering joining as a police community support officer (PCSO) – a role with fewer powers than a regular police constable, but which offers support for front-line policing.

She says the Public Services course really stood her in good stead. "The work I did at college does help with my application," she says. "It shows that I haven't just decided one day 'Oh, I'll join the police'. It shows that I've thought about it and learned about it."