

**“I came back from maternity leave and had lots of questions”**

DC Courtney Woodward has been a rep for Kent Police Federation 18 months, after returning from maternity leave and wanting change.

“I became a rep to support people and help to make the force a bit more equal. I had come back from maternity leave and had lots of questions about part time working. I felt there were a lot of improvements that could be made to make things more equal for new mums.

“I found that as I was finding out the answers, a lot of other officers were coming to me for advice and I became a point of contact. It made sense to do it in a more formal way, so I became a Fed rep.

“Since becoming a rep, the world has changed because of the Covid-19 pandemic so I haven’t been able to get stuck into the role in the same way as I would have done usually. But, I’m very proud to be Kent’s elected detective for the Police Federation National Detective Forum already.



**Courtney Woodward, Kent Police**

**“ Don’t let fear hold you back. ”**

“You gain a lot of skills as a Fed rep, but the one thing I really value is the knowledge of strategy that the role brings. You attend different meetings, which helps you to see

the bigger picture and the way things work from the perspective of the officers but also the senior management. It’s good to have that other point of view.

“My advice for anyone thinking of standing in the elections is “do it!”. Don’t let fear hold you back. There is always someone who can help you if you don’t know the answer. I was worried about how much time the role would take up, but really it’s up to you to manage it and make it fit you. I work part time now but my Fed work fits”.