

Police chief backs teen crime commissioner after tweets

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The police chief who hired the UK's first youth police and crime commissioner (PCC) says the 17-year-old won't lose her job.

Paris Brown, from Kent, had to apologise on Sunday for sending offensive tweets.

The posts appeared to reflect homophobia, violence and drug taking.

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Paris Brown

"I apologise for any offence caused by my use of inappropriate language and for any inference of inappropriate views," she said in a statement.

"I am not homophobic, racist or violent and am against the taking of drugs.

"If I'm guilty of anything it's showing off and wildly exaggerating on Twitter and I am very ashamed of myself, but I can't imagine that I'm the only teenager to have done this.

"I have a genuine interest in working with young people, as demonstrated by my current work as an apprentice for a local authority helping teenagers in a local community."

'Ashamed'

The tweets were posted by the teenager from the ages of 14 to 16 but have now been deleted.

Paris Brown will get £15,000 a year to represent young people in Kent and was selected from 164 applicants.

Ann Barnes was appointed to her role in November last year

In her new role she will be working under current PCC Ann Barnes.

She defended Paris Brown but said she didn't agree with what she had done.

"I do not condone the content or language or anything about those tweets of Paris," she said.

"They were absolutely disgraceful. She's ashamed of herself. I'm ashamed of her, her parents are ashamed of her and she's desperately trying to explain them and put them right because she tells them they are out of context.

"She did write them. She doesn't say she didn't, she did. They were out of context, she's explained some of the things behind them.

"I'm not making excuses for her because there are no excuses to make.

"The only excuse I will make is that she made wrote them on social networking sites between the ages of 14-16 and you know, young people make mistakes.

"She has got my support and we would certainly not condone any more behaviour like this because, but I don't think that will happen."

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