

National VPC Newsletter

August 2023



Welcome to this 'bumper' edition of the National VPC Newsletter. Cadets & leaders have been very busy all summer and this edition highlights the activities & achievements of VPC Units, Cadets & Leaders across the Police Forces of England & Wales. We have try to include as many stories as possible from across different VPC schemes.

National VPC



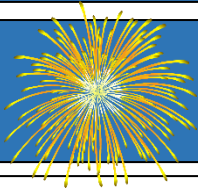
The Aims of the VPC

- To promote a practical understanding of policing amongst all young people.
- To encourage the spirit of adventure and good citizenship.
- To support local policing priorities through volunteering and give young people a chance to be heard.
- To inspire young people to participate positively in their communities.

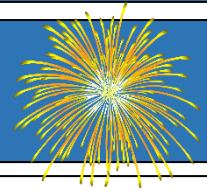
Do you have a story that can be shared with everyone? Has your Cadet unit done something to shout about?

If so, contact us at - vpc.admin@vpc.police.uk





Celebrating Cadets



VPC schemes celebrated their Cadets with award ceremonies across several forces in July. It is Chance for cadets and their families to come together and share in recognising individual and collective achievements over the last 12 months.



Durham Volunteer Police Cadets hosted their first awards ceremony since COVID.

The awards evening was held in the grand surroundings of Ramside Hall in Durham and attended by Cadets, Leaders, family. The event was opened by Assistant Chief Constable Tonya Antonis Police who was joined by Crime Commissioner Joy Allen, along with other Senior Officers from the force.

Presented by several special guest's, awards were presented for Best on Parade, Fittest Cadet, Most Volunteering Hours, sectional certificates for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award as well as full Bronze Awards



The prestigious Norma Cowan Memorial Award was presented to Cadet Amber Parker (pictured right)

The evening was rounded off with a celebration buffet and the opportunity for cadets and guests to take photographs. A brilliant night recognising the achievements of all cadets and the commitment of the volunteer staff.



Weston-Super-Mare Police Cadets held their annual cadet awards. The event was attended by esteemed guests, including the Mayor of Weston-Super-Mare, The High Sheriff, Sgt Matthew Shaqer and Proud family and friends, all gathering to celebrate the exceptional achievements of the dedicated cadets over the past year. One of the highlights of the evening was the High Sheriff using this special occasion to introduce the new High Sheriffs Cadets for Somerset.



Throughout the evening, the focus remained firmly on the achievements of the Cadets. These young individuals demonstrated remarkable dedication and selflessness, volunteering countless hours to support various community events and initiatives. From assisting Officers in ensuring public safety during events to engaging in charity fundraisers, their efforts have left a profound impact. Among the awards presented were accolades for outstanding Attendance, community engagement, personal growth and of course the Cadet of the Year awards.

The Weston-Super-Mare Police Cadets Annual Awards Evening served as a poignant reminder of the dedication and time the cadets have shown over the last year. We are confident that the future holds great promise for these talented cadets and look forward to witnessing their continued growth.



Lancshires' Blackpool and Fylde Police Cadets held their awards ceremony at the Blackpool and Fylde University Centre which is where the south unit meet during term time. There were awards for Cadet Volunteer of the Year. Cadet of the Year and Cadet Leaders of the Year (voted for by the cadets).

Three cadets who have recently joined, were attested before a large intake (over 40 new cadets) starts in September.

Promotions were also made to Cadet Sergeant and Cadet Inspector.

Congratulations should also go to Blackpool and Fylde Police Cadet Coordinator, Nicola Leigh, who was recently won the Everyday Hero award at Lancashire Constabulary's Excellence Awards. Nicola was presented with her award by Chief Constable Chris Rowley and credits her award to the wonderful comments made regarding her nomination by her line manager, Cadet leaders and Cadets.

Cadets and parents attended the Chorley & South Ribble and West Lancashire Police Cadets Awards Evening, held at Police Headquarters. Congratulations to all the Cadets for completing another year and well done to those who received promotions, certificates and shields.

Guests included Chief Inspector Abbott and the High Sheriff of Lancashire Mr David Taylor

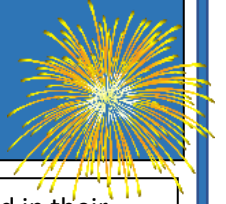




Cadet Gabriella Fox, 17yrs (pictured left, with her mum) has won a national award that recognises students that have had to overcome adversity to achieve.



Surrey Cadet wins National Award



Designed to recognise learners who have overcome difficult personal circumstances in order to succeed in their studies, the **Against All Odds** award is very special and always attracts a huge volume of nominations.

Born with the rare syndrome VACTERL (Vertebral defects. Anorectal anomalies. Cardiac defects. Tracheo-oesophageal fistula/oesophageal atresia, Renal abnormalities, Limb defects) which affects various parts of the body, Gabriella has had over 35 operations over the last 17 years. She also has an unrelated health condition that has resulted in her spending up to 10 days at a time each month in bed, unable to move, eat or drink.

Aged 10, her parents were advised to remove her from school and educate her at home so that she could learn when she was (un)well and pause her education when required.

Gabriella wouldn't let this stop her from getting an education, particularly in creative and practical subjects. In January 2022, she began her NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Creative Craft (Cookery) and successfully completed this in June this year. Preparing food can be a challenge for Gabriella as she is missing part of her left arm and hand and has little movement in the remaining fingers. Regardless of this, she cuts, chops, mixes, rolls and stirs, finding new conventional way doesn't work for her.



Outside of her academic studies Gabriella is achieving against the odds elsewhere. She is a Cadet with Surrey's Runnymede Unit.

In 2021, she was crowned the 'Riding for the Disabled Unclassified National Dressage Champion'. She also has her own dog walking business and sells dog birthday cakes that are not only safe for the owners to eat as well, but taste delicious!

Louise Fox, Gabriella's mum, added: *"I've seen Gabriella at her lowest, but I've also seen her overcome that and achieve amazing things. For her to have won this award just makes me incredibly proud of her, to see how she's grown and to see that be recognised. I'm just really proud to be her mum!"*

Gabriella - we are proud to have you as one of our Cadets!



You can see more of Gabriella's inspirational story and her being presented with her award by clicking on the box opposite --

Celebrating Leaders

VPC schemes across England & Wales wouldn't be what they are without our VPC Leaders. Without adult leaders VPC schemes would simply not be operating.

Across the VPC we have 2,500 adult leaders, who come from a wide variety of backgrounds and can be serving/retired police officers or police staff, volunteers from outside policing and ex-cadets who have turned 18 and want to carry on in the VPC.

Many give up their own spare time to ensure that Cadet schemes continue to offer a great program to young people to achieve the aims of the VPC and often their work goes unnoticed. Weekly VPC sessions take planning and co-ordination.

Our Leaders continually show dedication and commitment to their VPC schemes and the young people they work with.

None of the content in this newsletter, or any other, would be possible without them. We salute you.



During the Durham VPC scheme award ceremony, Leaders were recognised for their contribution to the scheme (pictured left).

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary celebrated their Leaders' 2 & 5 years' service in the VPC with a leader award ceremony at their Netley HQ along with Chief Superintendent Paul Southey (pictured right).



Public engagement by Sussex Cadets



Crawley Police Cadets from Sussex Police took part in the Armed Forces Day that was held in Crawley Town Centre. The day was an opportunity for different services to be able to demonstrate and educate around what they do.

The Cadets engaged with the public, handing out leaflets, demonstrating finger printing with children and young people which they could take a print of their own fingerprint along with a Police colouring book home with them and allowing them to try on an array of different Police clothing, equipment and vehicles. The Cadets were given the opportunity to demonstrate their parading skills.

The organisers fed back to the Force that they were very impressed with the Turnout, Drill, and professionalism of all involved.

Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne OBE supports Volunteer Police Cadets across the county: "I applaud any young person for taking on voluntary roles because it is additional work on top of their day-to-day responsibilities or studies. I was always taught that 'those who can, do and those who can do more, volunteer'."

Sussex has over 100 Cadet volunteers aged between 13-18 years who undertake weekly meetings and help to support the Force. Their role includes regular assistance with police operations such as test purchasing in their local shops. This is excellent preparation for a career in policing and improves their knowledge of their community. improves their knowledge of their community. Police Cadets often go on to

apply to join as police officers or Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). Harry Dawes joined the Cadets in 2014 and has since moved on to join Sussex Police: "When I first joined Sussex's Police Cadet programme in 2014, I knew very little about the reality of police work, but I thought what they did was cool. You can probably imagine my surprise when I was sitting down learning about mnemonics – (a memory technique used by the Police)



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

If it wasn't for the Cadets, I believe I would have really struggled learning so much in a short amount of time. I grew in confidence; little did I know that this was an extremely important part of the job. Fast forward nine years and I am using this skill daily.

I learnt a lot about what the police do, and, in the end, I felt a part of the Sussex Police family. I had worked my way up to Head Cadet of Mid Sussex cohort - at the time, the highest ranked Cadet you could get. That was a massive step for me. I had learnt a lot about working as a team and team management.

All this hard work paid off and I won the highest award you could win as a Cadet - Cadet of the Year. The skills that I had learnt, and the classes I attended over the years, had all led up to that moment. It helped open doors for me, and I had the support of a fantastic team hoping that I would join Sussex Police. Now here I am, starting my working life with Sussex Police."

"My leaders really helped me to understand the interview process and training process when becoming a police officer. This helped me to obtain my role today, it helped me in class with my training, and it is now helping my work on the streets of Sussex. I still use the skills taught to me by the amazing group of volunteers every day of my life. Joining the Cadets was the best decision I've made. Thank you to everyone involved in the Police Cadet Programme because you make the difference."

Reflecting on Harry's story, PCC Katy Bourne (pictured below) continues: *"Becoming a Police Cadet can so often be a pivotal moment in a young person's life and a steppingstone to becoming a police officer. It is wonderful for Sussex Police that cadets like Harry continue to inspire future recruits."*



PCC Bourne also spoke to the Cadets from the Worthing area who shared their experiences: -

"I joined Cadets because I am interested in the police in the future. I like the idea of working as a team and Cadets has done a very good job of teaching me how effective teamwork can be. I have met very supportive and friendly people, both staff and Cadets, who inspire me to work better."

"I look forward to going to Cadets every week and becoming involved in activities. Working with the police has always been fascinating to me and I'm grateful for the opportunities I am given." – Palmisano

"I have always wanted to work in the police and being in the Cadets will help me to achieve that, I've enjoyed it ever since I started! I have made so many friends who I hope will stay with me forever – a very special friendship group." – Charlie

Dyfed-Powys Volunteer Police Cadets were set a challenge to demonstrate how Cadets were supporting / raising awareness of Anti-Social Behaviour to coincide with ASB Awareness Week which ran during July.

Ammanford VPC set about thinking of how they could create accessible information to support and empower young people in their community and educate others on Anti-Social Behaviour.



Dyfed-Powys Cadets rise to the challenge



They spent time as a team, discussing thoughts and ideas which resulted in them creating an amazing video (opposite) with a sign language interpreter. They also designed a Braille poster.

A fantastic effort by everyone at Ammanford Police Cadets. To celebrate this achievement, they enjoyed a Pizza and Games night!



Police Chief invites Cadets to Brussels



Back In 2019, the National VPC team hosted Commissioner Michel Goovaerts, chief of Brussels Police, and his team who were on a fact-finding visit to London, looking to set up their version of the VPC, their brand new 'PolBru Cadets'.

Since then, PolBru Cadets have gone from strength to strength reaching out to young people across Brussels and changing young lives.

To celebrate the anniversary of their formation, coinciding with National Day, a major parade was held in Brussels hosted by the Brussels Police.

Two teams from UK VPC units were invited to attend, one from the City of London Police and the Metropolitan Police Tower Hamlets unit, who had put on a display for our Belgian guests when they visited in 2019.

Cadets were warmly welcomed on arrival in Brussels, met by their hosts and joining French police Cadets who had also been invited.



CITY OF LONDON
POLICE



A packed long weekend of parades, events, experiences, and meeting VIPs gave the UK Volunteer Police Cadets an incredible experience they will never forget.

They met the King and Queen of Belgium, the Mayor of Brussels, and many others.

Lifetime friendships were formed with our European partners, and we look forward to future events.




Thanks to everyone who made this happen, our Cadets, the dedicated hosts, colleagues, partners and the inspirational coordinators and VPC staff team, led by City Polices' PC Liam Masterson and from Tower Hamlets, Metropolitan Police, PC Reece Buckley. You all did the VPC proud.

Manchester Cadets enjoy the Summer



Cadets from Greater Manchester threw themselves (literally in some cases) into their summer camp at Brathay Hall, Ambleside in the Lake District.

Lots of activities for cadets from all VPC units across Greater Manchester to take part. Giving young people experiences they wouldn't normally get, including Cadets with neurodiversity issues, sight impairment and some never been out of Manchester.

In the words of Sgt Darren Hall Force VPC strategic lead – *'This is what it's all about!' and we couldn't agree more!* 



While at Brathay Hall, the Cadets were joined by Superintendent Hemmingway, who carried out an inspection of their ranks. The Cadets were described as very professional.

Well done all of you!



Sticking with GMP.....

Greater Manchester have had a busy summer – not only with Summer Camp but with their first attestation and review of Cadets since COVID. Some pictures from a great event below.





Humberside Cadets learn about rural crime



In Bridlington a number of Humberside Police Cadets have been given the fantastic chance to get involved and learn more about rural crime by teaming up with our Rural Task Force.

We are always trying to find new ways to engage with our communities and by enabling the cadets to join up with the Wildlife and Heritage Crime Officer we are able to show them aspects of policing they may not otherwise get to see and experience.

The Bridlington Cadet Unit, supported by their Cadet Leaders, Devan WITTER, Amber GILVEY, Ian FIRTH and Joe LINES worked hard to get their cadets involved and as a result they are the first unit to identify dedicated Rural Task Force Cadets.

These cadets were first seen out at Driffield Show, providing rural crime prevention advice, and could be identified by their new Rural Task Force badges. They are well versed in the crimes that affect farmers and the wider rural communities and are often very involved in the Operation Seabird.



Sgt Kevin Jones is the head of the Rural Task Force and said, *"Rural Communities within the Humberside Police Force area face several specific issues with regards to rural crime, for example, theft and damage in connection with farms, livestock, wildlife, isolated vulnerable properties, and cross border criminality."*

"The dedicated Rural Task Force Cadets will provide further support to our rural and farming communities by offering rural crime prevention advice at various agricultural engagement events and during farm visits. The RTF cadets will receive specialist training in forensic marking equipment to understand the products available to reduce rural crime and the watch groups available to encourage sign up to support the vulnerable members of the farming community."

"The team are looking forward to working alongside the new Rural Task Force Police Cadets."



Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner Jonathan Evison said,

"I was delighted to meet the police cadets at Driffield show. I have supported Humberside Police with extra funding to increase the range of equipment available to our Rural Task Force which will enable them to cut crime and protect our isolated communities and farms which sometimes feel vulnerable."

Merseyside keep the busy summer going!



Cadets took part in a Sponsored Walk For the 'High Sheriff and Chief Constables Charity'

Merseyside Police Cadets had a great time at the 'She Inspires female youth football tournament' at the Liverpool County FA venue in Thornton. (Pictures right).

With over 400 girls from secondary schools around Merseyside in attendance.

The Cadets and the Community Engagement Unit supported the event alongside female colleagues from the Mounted and Dog Section, Firearm officers, Local Policing, School Officers and Roads Policing teams



Cadets carried out an open land search within Newsham Park, Liverpool (pictured left).

The cadets located a 7-inch knife from the pathway near to the old Newsham Park Hospital and a pair of scissors hidden in a tree.

Several members of the community spoken to, and a special needs group allowed to look at the police carrier.

Great community engagement!

A Valuing Volunteers event was held with the Chief Constable, Serena Kennedy, Polie & Crime Commissioner and High Sheriff amongst other guests in attendance along with all sides of volunteering across Merseyside Police.

The police cadets were in attendance and recognised for their contribution.

The cadets are pictured right with the High Sherriff.



Hampshire & Isle of Wight, their Cadets have had a busy time !

Cadets assisted at Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary, at the annual Families Day, held at Force HQ in Netley



Armed Forces Day in Southsea saw a Cadets from all over the county join in and celebrating the Armed Forces along with the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth (below).



The annual summer camp was held at YMCA Fairthorne Manor in Burrigge, our theme this year being PIRATES! A very hot weekend with plenty of water fights and all things 'Piratey' themed!

As you can see above, the VPC leaders joined in the fun!



Assistant Chief Constable Paul Bartolomeo join them for a closing ceremony and to hand out some certificates. (Pictured below)



Cumbria get competitive



Four VPC Units from across from across Cumbria came together to compete in their annual cadet competition.

The Cadets competed for the coveted Jack Taylor Memorial Shield at Cumbria Police Headquarters in Penrith

The competition kicked off with a PSU (Police Support Unit) input and shield run. This physically demanding event required cadets to work collaboratively, displaying their coordination and tactical aptitude through timed manoeuvres. The shield run showcased their ability to remain focused and protect each other while advancing towards a common goal.

Next the cadets were pushing their limits in the adrenaline pumping bleep test. This rigorous cardio challenge aimed to test the endurance and stamina of these young cadets. The fierce determination from all teams set the stage for an intense competition ahead.

Command tasks followed which were designed to assess the cadet's problem-solving skills, communication abilities, and leadership qualities. This event put teamwork at the forefront, as teams were presented with various scenarios requiring quick decision making and effective delegation of responsibilities.



Next on the agenda was the vehicle search, an exercise that gauged the cadet's attentiveness, meticulousness, and sensitivity towards potential evidence.

They meticulously combed through cars, searching for hidden items whilst adhering to strict protocols. Next the cadets were pushing their limits in the adrenaline pumping bleep test.

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Finally, the uniform inspection tested the cadets' discipline, attention to detail, and professionalism. Wearing their uniforms with pride, the cadets were evaluated on their personal presentations, adherence to uniform standards and overall appearance.

The victorious team were Penrith Cadets (pictured above, together with Jack Taylors' parents and Deputy PCC Mike Johnson) with Barrow Cadets coming second with only 1 point between the teams!

The cadets from Penrith exhibited remarkable skills and cohesion throughout the competition, earning them the well-deserved title of champions.

The Jack Taylor Memorial Shield is in memory of 19-year-old ex-Cumbria Cadet and Police Volunteer, Jack Taylor (pictured right) who sadly died following a road traffic collision in 2021.

Jack had volunteered at Cumbria police during the COVID-19 pandemic, where he collected and delivered PPE equipment for frontline officers.



Dorset engage with Pride, compete in an annual challenge & end up in the dock!

Cadets, pictured right, from across all 4 Dorset VPC units took part in Bourne Free Pride supporting their LGBTQ+ community in July.

Face paints, Flags and Fun singing and dancing along the route was had by all.



Following on a week later, the 4 units came together for their annual Cadet challenge.

This year's winners were **TGS Christchurch Cadets**



And if that wasn't enough 5 cadets selected from across all 4 units took part in mock court trial as part of Bournemouth Magistrates and County Court public open day. Throughout the day, judges and barristers put them through their paces as defendant and witnesses with a jury deciding the verdict. Cadet's role played in front of a very crowded court room with Harry Potter character, Draco Malfoy being accused of threatening Hermione Granger with a knife. Albeit fictitious the court setting was very real, and all 5 cadets were superb. Unfortunately, photography inside the court was not allowed. But one was taken of the team outside the court (pictured right).



Gloucestershire Volunteer Police Cadets continue the busy theme of VPC schemes over the summer!

First off - 

Cadets showed off their creativity and baking talents with a challenge to produce a cake, cookies or cupcakes based on a police theme.

They blew it out of the park! There were so many amazing cakes, it was a sugar filled delight.

The cakes were judged and then sold for donations to the Sue Ryder charity. With the aid of a JustGiving page, they even managed to get to those people who don't carry cash anymore – no excuses accepted.

They managed to raise £300 for the charity, and add a few pounds to some waistlines as well, but it was all in aid of a good cause.

Gloucestershire Cadets get creative



Next came a call for assistance from the former Gloucestershire High Sherriff, Sir Dusty Miller KBE.

Gloucestershire, we have a large Ukrainian community and as we know, it is a turbulent time in their home country.

The Cadets were asked if they could help with the young members of this community.



The answer (as any VPC would give) was of course - "yes, of course Sir". The Cadets took the challenge in their stride, with one deciding that they would need to have a phrase book, so... he designed one.

Others thought about what they could do with their visitors and so, on two separate evenings, they hosted a group of Ukrainian teenagers, at two of their Units.

They were shown the riot van, taught first aid, saw a speed device, had a look around a traffic car and even met one of the wonderful police dogs, PD Erin. *(The Cadets, their Ukrainian friends and PD Erin are picture above)*

Despite language barriers, both evenings were full of smiling and happy people, so a roaring success.

But that's not all!

Throw in a few fetes and fayres, helping at two Sue Ryder Race for Life events, a Mudder run, guard of honour at a leader's wedding, helping at church playgroups, bike marking events, test purchase operations with Trading Standards, and assisting CID with an investigation - it has been 'full-on'.

We think they deserve a break...but not them... They have recruited another 28 Cadets and they start their training in September at the Police Training Centre. More operations are upcoming with a Cadet weekend away and lots more to come. They certainly love being busy in



Windsor & Maidenhead carry out Drill with a view

Thames Valley's Windsor & Maidenhead VPC unit helped at the Royal Windsor Horse Show.

They were renewing their involvement in the Clear Car Campaign, which aims to prevent theft from motor vehicles and the Cadets were checking to ensure no valuables were left in cars in the car park of Home Park, Windsor.

Whilst at this iconic setting the Cadets took the opportunity to practice some drill in front of Windsor Castle.



Can your VPC Unit rival the above view when practising drill ?

or

have you practised drill in an unusual place?



If so, drop us a line using the contact email below or tag us in your social media posts



Do you have a story that can be shared with everyone?

Has your Cadet unit done something to shout about?

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SCAN ME