



Creating a safe and inclusive space

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Promoting an understanding of Policing and Youth Voice

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Inspiring youth participation and social action

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Diverting from harm and building trust

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Inspiring and enabling progression in to Policing



Welcome to the
Christmas 2025 edition of the
National VPC Newsletter.
Highlighting the activities &
achievements of VPC Units,
Cadets, and Leaders
across the Police Forces of England
& Wales.

We hope all our Cadets & Leaders
have a great Christmas!

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

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Cadets once again come together for Remembrance Day

Cadets from VPC units across all schemes once again took part in Remembrance Day parades



As in previous years the VPC were given the honour of taking part in the national parade of remembrance at the Cenotaph in London (pictured above) .

The contingent came from Cambridgeshire, Kent, Leicestershire and Surrey VPC. All were impeccably turned out and conducted themselves with great pride and professionalism.

Cadets joined 10,000 veterans in Whitehall alongside other youth organisations from the Youth United network.

The network is kindly invited to take part by the organisers the Royal British Legion and work is already underway for the 2026 parade.





New Humberside Cadets pledge to work hard

In November, a new group of Volunteer Police Cadets proudly took to the stage at Melton Police Station to take their oath and officially join Humberside Police.



In front of fellow cadets and invited guests, they pledged to make the most of this opportunity and work hard to support their local communities.

Sergeant Hollie Harris, Youth Engagement Sergeant, said "I've recently taken on this role and have had the privilege

of learning about the many community projects we deliver across Humberside. One initiative that truly stands out is our Police Cadet Scheme. I'm inspired by the commitment shown by those attesting tonight and look forward to working alongside them in the future."

The evening also celebrated outstanding achievements within the scheme. Inspector Mark Lovell presented two prestigious awards:

The **Liz Smith Award** honours compassion, dedication, and a strong commitment to community - values Liz embodied. This year, it was awarded to **Cadet Darcie Smith** from Bridlington, who is a shining example of these qualities.

The **Cadet of the Year** accolade went to **Cadet Jack Bishop**. Inspector Lovell said "Jack consistently upholds the highest standards of behaviour and presentation, always ready to assist others and take initiative. Jack has recently stepped into a senior cadet role, taking on extra responsibilities with confidence and setting a strong example for his peers."

Both Darcie and Jack encouraged the new cadets to make the most of their time volunteering with Humberside Police and to learn from the many Cadet Leaders who support them.

Force Cadet Lead Katie Hardy added "It's always wonderful to see new cadets take their oaths and join the policing family. Over the years, many ex-cadets have gone on to become officers, staff, volunteers, and Special Constables. I can't wait to see where these young people will go."





Hampshire get rowdy!

Alongside their weekly meetings where they learn all about policing, the law and valuable life skills; volunteering is a real highlight for the Cadets in Hampshire.

One of the most requested opportunities from them is to assist with is the Public Order Department with their Level 2 Refresher training.



When these roll around, it is our Cadets job to act as a rowdy riot crowd. They are chased all over the Inkerman training site, are allowed to throw projectiles at the officers and be as creative as they can, to make the riot training as realistic as possible.

They certainly have come up with some creative chants and insults along the way!

But, at the end of the training sessions, you can find them clearing up the projectiles they have thrown and giving a round of applause to the hard-working officers who have participated that night.



Participation in this training, opens their eyes to the harsher realities of Policing and how they are dealt with them on the front line.

They get to ask questions of the trainers about what is being taught, see how effective and swift, tactics of all different kinds can bring about a safe resolution and get an idea of what it means to be on the front-line of modern policing.

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PC 27242 Jenni Lawrence, who runs the Public Order sessions for her team, has this to say about her experience working with the Cadets:

"We have run a couple of sessions of our public order refresher courses, and both times we have managed to arrange for a number of the cadets to come and help us out as crowd. The impact of having a crowd at the training is invaluable, it adds to the reality of the situation, without which the training would have a much lesser impact."

The Cadets have attended with great energy and enthusiasm bringing a dose of realism to the training. I have noted however, that whilst energy is high, the cadets do everything they are asked to do, they follow the rules and boundaries and don't cause any issues at all. I have no doubt this is also in no small part due to the leadership of the cadet Leaders! We have lots of further refresher dates coming up, and we are looking forward to working with the cadets for as many of these as you can manage!

Gwent Cadets visit Hope Rescue



In October, Cadets from the Torfaen and Newport VPC units in Gwent, took a trip down the M4 to visit @HopeRescueWales at their Kennels in Pontyclun.

Back in September the Cadets had offered their time to help at the Bi-Annual #DuckRace held in Swan Meadow, Abergavenny to help raise vital funds for the work that Hope Rescue do to look after and rehabilitate lost, stray, seized and unwanted dogs across the South Wales and Gwent force areas.

During their visit to their kennels, the Cadets saw how dogs are cared for throughout their stay at the facility, and spoke to staff about their roles and work within the Charity.

There has been a lot of work carried out at their facility by a number of volunteers to strengthen the buildings against our wet Welsh weather, and, although the Cadets are just a small part of their fundraising efforts, they felt proud to have helped raise funds to support their dogs.



A number of these dogs are available for adoption on their website, including Raya and Sierra who are pictured with the Cadets.

For more information about the work that they do, please visit their website

<https://www.hoperescue.org.uk/>

The Cadets are looking forward to continuing their work with them in April 2026 at their next Duck Race.





European partnership continues



The Head Of The Belgium Police Michel Goovaerts was in London in November.

He brought with him 40 Belgium Police Cadets to take part in The Lord Mayors Show alongside Volunteer Police Cadets from the Metropolitan Polices' Tower Hamlets VPC unit.

They have been working in partnership with Cadets from Belgium and Paris for the last 4 years under the Cadet International Alliance.

Tower Hamlets Cadets have taken part in events in Paris and Brussels.

The Cadet International Alliance is a working agreement between the City of London VPC, Metropolitan Police Tower Hamlet VPC, the French Gendarmerie cadets and Belgium Police Cadets.

It allows for international exchanges and trips between the three countries. With cadets making friends and enhancing their skills to help them in their future.

The relationship between the three schemes dates back to 2022.

Met. PC, Reece Buckley (Cadet Coordinator) said " This all started in 2019 when Commissioner Goovaerts came to Tower Hamlets. He wanted to view a Cadet programme and spent the evening at our Langdon Park unit.

He immediately returned and set up the units in Brussels.

This is a great Police Partnership program that all the cadets benefit from".



Greater Manchester Cadets visit Air Support



Cadets from Grater Manchester VPC had the opportunity to visit the National Police Air Support (NPAS) base at Barton Aerodrome in Manchester and what a great experience it was!

They were able to listen in on the shift change brief, get a full weather report, look at specialist equipment on board the helicopter & ask the pilot and tactical flight officers on duty lots of questions about their experiences & qualifications.

What a great opportunity for the cadets. Who knows might have a future pilot in their midst!





Thames Valley take inspiration from injured Officer

Thames Valley Cadets recently took part in the odyssey Challenge for the Intrepid Games www.intrepidgames.org

The Cadets received an input from ex- police officer Kerry Snuggs MBE, (pictured right) who shared her story of how she was injured on duty and the changes this made to her life. As a result she started the Intrepid Games, which is a charity providing sport for injured emergency service workers.



To help raise money for the sporting event the South Bucks cadets took part in the Odyssey Challenge where they had to learn how to do sitting netball which was very challenging.

They then had to do 50 acts of kindness, this involved the cadets cleaning their rooms, helping family and friends with chores and even making cakes and taking them to local police stations.

One cadet helped at an old peoples home, and another cadet climbed Snowden!

They also had to raise £35 each for the charity and the group managed to raise £560 pounds in total.



You can read more about Kerry's story on the [HERE](#) on the Oscar Kilo website.

Oscar Kilo is the National Police Wellbeing Service, they help policing organisations build healthy working environments and meet their legal and moral duty of care around wellbeing. want to help individuals to stay well, feel valued and thrive at work, and at home



Kent VPC Leaders assemble!



Kent Volunteer Police Cadet Leaders gather for Second Annual Conference

The Kent Volunteer Police Cadet programme celebrated its second annual leaders' conference, bringing together 53 leaders from across the county for a day of recognition, collaboration, and forward planning.



The highlight of the day was the Chief Constable personally presenting the Kings Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) certificates to leaders. Whilst all leaders had previously received their KAVS pin badges and attended the parade in April, this was the first opportunity for the Chief to see them all together and acknowledge their outstanding contribution.

Leaders also enjoyed the first viewing of the latest cadet video, showcasing the incredible work they do to support young people and their communities.

The conference featured two guest speakers:

PS Glen Rickersey from **Operation Makesafe**, who shared vital safeguarding insights and **Adam Westgarth** from **Corporate Communications**, who offered practical guidance on engaging with the media.

The forces' central VPC team reviewed the programme's achievements over the past year and shared exciting plans for 2026, including a new cadet programme designed to provide leaders with 100+ session plans focused on scenario-based and game-led learning.

Leaders were also updated on the "You Said, We Did" actions following last year's conference and the recent leader survey, ensuring their voices continue to shape the programme.

Since the programme began, leaders and cadets have contributed an incredible **113,072 volunteering hours** - This milestone reflects the dedication and passion of every volunteer involved.

A Blue Sky Thinking lunch encouraged leaders to share fresh ideas, many of which will be taken forward. The day concluded with an open Q&A session with the central team, followed by an evening social with pizza and conversation, reinforcing the sense of community among leaders.

This event not only celebrated the achievements of the past year but also sets the stage for continued growth and innovation in the Kent VPC programme.



Lincolnshire VPC 2025 review

Cadets in Lincolnshire have been busy over 2025 giving over **13,000** hours to learn about policing, with nearly 6000 of these hours being used for extra duties and to support the local community through litter picks, community races, charity events, local policing initiatives, educational visits, parades, and more!

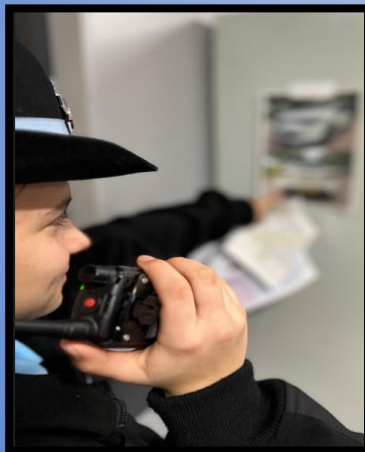
All 6 cadets units in Lincolnshire joined regular officers to represent Lincolnshire Police at Remembrance events across the county. They were professional, respectful, and did Lincolnshire Police very proud.



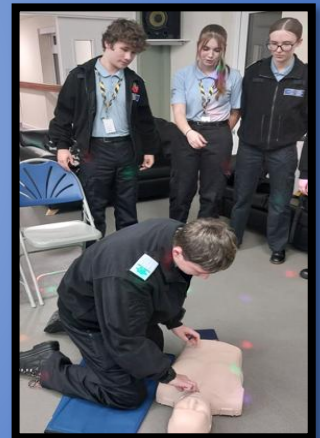
Skegness cadets supported the Royal British Legion in making and tying poppies as part of a local poppy display and service for Remembrance. Cadet Riley was invited to read his poignant poem 'Crimson Whispers' at a local poppy appeal launch and it was shared on force social media.



Lincoln cadets have been busy observing officers completing their PSU training, supporting student officers with their food bank appeal, and practicing their phonetic alphabet and radio skills.



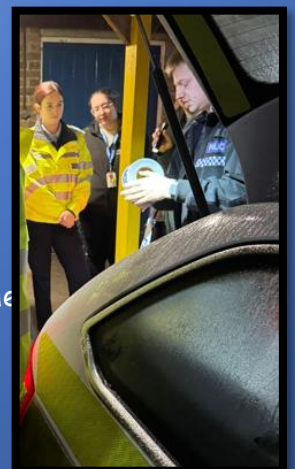
Cadets in **Spalding** have been in receipt of some brilliant training over the last few weeks, including learning about CPR and defibrillators and more about equality, diversity, and inclusion in policing.



Grantham cadets have spent time supporting local charities by facilitating the local Biker Run which gathers toys for children in need. They've also had guest speaker inputs from the CSI team with opportunities to try out some of the different tests they use at crime scenes.



Bourne VPC leaders provided a fantastic insight into the kit within police cars, offering cadets the opportunity to have a look around, try out the equipment, and hear how things are used.



Cadets in **Boston** have given their time to support local parades recently, including for the Battle of Britain. They had key roles in the parade, supporting members of the local community to pay their respects



Disney Inspiring Cadets

Volunteer Police Cadets Enjoy Inspiring Experience Day with The Walt Disney Company (TWDC) Global Security EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa)

Thanks to our National VPC partners at The Walt Disney Company (TWDC) Global Security EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) group, nearly 100 Volunteer Police Cadets teams representing ten force came together back in October for an inspirational Experience Day.



Held at TWDC HQ, cadets from **Derbyshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Leicestershire, Metropolitan Police, Suffolk, Sussex, Thames Valley, West Midlands** and **West Yorkshire** took part in the full day programme, designed to broaden horizons and strengthen future career aspirations.



The cadets learned about film set & major event security, scene management, major events, VIPs, filming, operating in countries around the world, looking after staff, risk assessments, threat mitigation, travel, communications, online digital environments, brand management

& protection. It was also fascinating listening to personal stories, the diverse range of opportunities, inclusion, training & qualifications offered. A fantastic experience for everyone taking part.

National VPC team member and partnerships lead Tim Mann MBE said "Once again we are extremely grateful to our good friends here at TWDC Global Security EMEA group, for hosting such an immersive and motivational experience day for amazing Volunteer Police Cadets from across the UK. Fantastic guest speakers, professionals, tech displays and opportunities have given cadets so much to think about, it was a really positive day for everyone.

I would also like to thank the adult leaders who made this possible, supporting their young people and bringing their teams to this event, without whom this would not have been possible."





The Disney Magic continues.....

Cadets from the Metropolitan Police Barnet Unit enjoyed an inspiring day at the iconic Theatre Royal Drury Lane, supporting Disney's Relaxed Performance of the smash-hit new musical "Hercules"

Relaxed Performances are adapted versions of a theatre show created to support children and families with additional needs. Lighting and sound are softened, audiences can move around freely, and trained staff provide a calm, judgement-free environment so everyone can enjoy the performance at their own pace.



Welcomed by staff from the Theatre Royal and Disney Theatrical Group, the cadets gained a unique insight into the world of professional theatre, learning earned about front-of-house operations, safety, accessibility, and the specialist work behind Relaxed Performances, including an immersive and engaging training awareness session.

Under their adult leader supervision, cadets helped greet families, support young people and children with additional needs, and helped create a warm, inclusive atmosphere for



This partnership between the Volunteer Police Cadets, TWDC Global Security (EMEA) group, Theatre Royal Drury Lane, and Disney Theatrical Group highlights the powerful impact that real-world opportunities with professionals can have on young people — building confidence, empathy, and ambition working side by side.

Thank you to our partners for this amazing opportunity and to the dedicated young people and leaders in cadets who bring so much positive energy to these events every time!



West Midlands Cadets raise funds



Chelmsley Wood (Solihull) Cadets kick started their term by choosing the Birmingham Dogs Home to raise Funds and had the opportunity to complete a collection over 3 hours on a Sunday in November at Morrisons in Solihull.

The official count by The Birmingham Dogs home (based in Catherine de Barnes) was an incredible £177.55.

The **Coventry Cadets** choose the Coventry Refugee & Migrant Centre in Coventry as their chosen Charity and have collected an amazing number of products!

Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre (CRMC) extend a warm embrace to asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants in Coventry, fostering an environment that empowers them to rebuild their lives and reach their full potential.

Chelmsley Wood Cadets supported the Solihull Neighbourhood Team & Solihull Violence reduction unit at Solihull Moors FC for the Safer for women - Tackling Violence & Intimidation Against Women & Girls event raising awareness of VAIWG & it's impact on women's sport and exercise in public places. "Tackling Violence & Intimidation Against Women & Girls".

The Solihull Lord Mayor and Simon Foster, the Police Crime Commissioner were in attendance with the West Midlands Victims' Advocate, Natalie Queiroz MBE and the Football Association, Safer Travel - British Transport and Representatives from Hollie Gazzard Trust (Talk about Hollie Guard APP)



Clacton VPC deliver their biggest food bank collection yet



Essex's Clacton Volunteer Police Cadets have done it again – and this time, they've smashed all expectations! After weeks of planning, hard work, and some heavy lifting, the unit has just completed its most successful food bank collection to date, delivering supplies to the Salvation Army to support local families in need.

This isn't just about tins and packets – it's about hope, kindness, and community spirit. The Cadets have shown what true dedication looks like. While many young people are scrolling through social media or binge-watching the latest series, these incredible individuals are out in the community making a real difference – often quietly, behind the scenes.

"We wanted to do something that really mattered," said one Cadet. "Seeing how much food we collected and knowing it will help people this winter – that's the best feeling ever."

The Essex Police Volunteer Police Cadet programme is built on values that shine through in this achievement:

- Community – putting people first and supporting those who need it most.
- Respect – treating everyone with dignity and kindness.
- Integrity – doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.
- Teamwork – working together to achieve something amazing.

And teamwork was certainly on display! From organising donations to packing and delivering, the Cadets showed resilience, humour, and heart. There were laughs along the way (including a debate about whether pasta counts as a luxury item), but the result speaks for itself: shelves stocked, families supported, and a community reminded that kindness is alive and well.



Northumbria VPC term comes to a close



The South Tyneside Cadet unit proudly supported the annual South Tyneside Winter Parade, helping to keep the event safe and well-organized.

Their efforts helped to ensure smooth operations throughout the festivities, and as a special highlight, the cadets even had the chance to meet a couple of famous faces!



The final North Tyneside Police Cadet session of the year had a well-being theme.

Cadets enjoyed sampling a variety of colourful mocktails before putting their festive knowledge to the test in a fun Christmas quiz.



A special highlight was a visit from PD Rolo, who brought plenty of smiles to the room.

Huge thanks to PC Alan Cox for generously giving up his time, and to all the dedicated cadet leaders for their work throughout the term.

Northumbria Police recently welcomed more than 350 people to Newcastle Cathedral for their annual Christmas Carol Service. It was a truly festive evening where the whole Northumbria Police family came together with friends and family to sing carols, enjoy readings, and indulge in a mince pie or two.





Merseyside perform festive engagement

Merseyside Cadets are assisting with 'Operation Shepard' providing high visibility at the Christmas markets and interacting with the public.



Merseyside Police held their annual Carol concert with the Police band, Cadets, Specials and Mini Police all partaking with the High Sheriff police cadet conducting a reading.



Cadets also helped out at the pensioners Christmas parties over three days whereby 1,000 pensioners from across Merseyside are provided with a free event including Christmas dinner funded by charitable donations.

Cadets were assisted by members of the Forces' Citizens in Policing team.





Volunteer Police Cadets

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