

# VPC Newsletter



## The Aims of the VPC are: -

- 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.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

This has been our first opportunity to wish all our Cadets and Leaders a happy new year!

2020 proves to be an exciting year for all in the VPC family. In January a 5-year National VPC Strategy and a National Safeguarding policy were

agreed at the National Police Chiefs Council which gives, for the first time, a framework that all VPC schemes can work to and further guidance in relation to recruitment, training and development of both VPC Leaders and Cadets will be provided. Thank you to all those who responded in the

consultation process, which will continue, as the voices of Cadets and Leaders matter in how the VPC scheme develops and delivers its aims.

Here's' to a great 2020!!

*National VPC Hub Team*



## FIND US ON...



# Memory of Mini-Police officer Melissa Tate will live on after tree planted in her name



Ten-year-old Melissa, who was tragically killed in September in a fatal hit-and-run near her home, was a proud member of the Force's Mini Police scheme

The memory of Kenton schoolgirl Melissa Tate will live on after a tree was planted in her name at Northumbria Police's headquarters.

Ten-year-old Melissa, known as 'Missy', to her family, was tragically killed in September after she was hit by a car in a fatal hit-and-run near her home.

Last week the driver responsible was jailed for seven years and four months at Newcastle Crown Court after admitting seven offences including causing death by dangerous driving.

Yesterday (Monday) Melissa's parents Kim and Michael – along with Missy's little sister Lili and step-mum Emma – were invited to Middle Engine Lane Police Station as a tree was planted in the former Mini Police volunteer's memory.

The tree which bears Melissa's name sits proudly in the Force's memorial garden.

Northumbria Police Chief Constable Winton Keenen said: "Melissa's death was a tragedy which has had a profound impact on her parents, her family, friends and the community as a whole.

"She was a proud and much-loved member of our Mini Police, who all give up their time to play such a fantastic and vitally important role in supporting their communities, our officers and operational policing more widely.

“We wanted to do something special in her memory – and the tree planted in our memorial garden will be a lasting tribute to her warmth and youthful exuberance.

“All our thoughts and prayers remain with Melissa’s family at this difficult time, and I sincerely hope this small gesture reaffirms to them how wonderful a daughter they raised, and how she will forever be remembered in our hearts.”

Melissa was a proud member of Northumbria Police’s Mini Police scheme and the identification number and card provided to her when she signed up as a pupil at Mountfield Primary School have been retired.

Melissa’s parents, Kim and Michael, said: “Our Missy was such a special girl who touched the hearts of everybody that she met.

“Not a day goes past that we don’t think of her, or think of the beautiful, successful woman that we knew she would grow in to. We will never get over that pain.

“She absolutely loved being part of the Mini Police scheme, so it is very touching to know that her memory will live on in the Force’s memorial garden.”

*(courtesy of Northumbria Police)*

## Avon & Somerset Cadets take part in Operation Makesafe to highlight shortcomings of hotels in spotting signs of CSE



A number of Avon and Somerset Constabulary officers and volunteer police cadets have recently been a part of an operation to test the ability of hotels and B&Bs in Yeovil and Bristol in spotting the signs of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

Plain clothes officers and volunteer police cadets have recently visited a number of hotels in Yeovil and Bristol as part of an exercise to raise awareness and educate staff on the signs of CSE. The officers, who work on Operation Topaz, attempted to book a room for a limited time without identification and requesting to pay in cash while accompanied by one of our volunteer police cadets who were all aged between 14 and 16.

DC Tracy Sparrow from the Topaz Child Exploitation Team, said: “Avon and Somerset Police take Child Sexual Exploitation very seriously and this recent operation is just one of the many innovative and tenacious initiatives we are using to tackle the exploitation of children.”

Avon and Somerset Volunteer Police Cadets have also support Op Makesafe by being photographed as ‘victims’ in the media releases (press and social media channels) and for the training literature that has been passed to hotels and taxi drivers.

# Holocaust Memorial Day



Redbridge Volunteer Police Cadets attended the Holocaust Memorial Day on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at the Holocaust Memorial Gardens in Valentines park, Ilford, London. This marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Genocide in Bosnia. After the service they attended Valentines Mansion to view the exhibition ‘No Childs Play’ which illustrated the struggle of children of the Holocaust and the launch of the Redbridge Equality Pledge ‘Stand Together’. A commitment towards helping to ensure that all residents are treated equally and fairly by others, giving them the freedom to be who they are.

*‘Don’t be content in your life just to do no wrong, be prepared every day to try and do some good’.*  
By Sir Nicholas Winton, who rescued 669 children from Nazi-occupied Europe

# Half Term Social Action

Great effort from Kent cadets, despite the rain and old conditions, security marking 61 bikes creating community engagement and providing reassurance I partnership with Halfords, Ashford Council and Retain Group Ltd



# Mini-Police Officer promoted !

A mini-police officer from St Marys School, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham got to spend the day as Neighbourhood Sergeant with Sgt Andy Boyd after winning a competition in school to apply for the role and explain her reasons why.

**Dear PO Boyd,**  
 I would really love this opportunity to be a Police Officer with you for the day because I feel like I have the skills to be one. I am kind to my friends and I don't fightback to others. I also take part in my Schools gardening club where we grow fruits and vegetables to help others in our community. I also enjoy helping others in our community. I also stand back for others when people try to hurt them. I enjoy helping the teachers by doing jobs for them. I also set a good example for the little children to follow. I calm and other things too. I love helping others.



Amongst her duties for the day, was briefing the Neighbourhood Team, visiting custody, taking fingerprints and footwear impressions, prepare for and chair an Anti-Social Behaviour panel meeting, search for a person missing from home and offer advice to residents at a 'Cuppa with a Copper' event.

Rumour has it that she did so well that Andy's job is under threat.....!!



# Tackling Knife Crime

**Thames Valley Police** Cadets from their Reading unit, out with officers from the Local Policing Area team, on a community sweep operation.

Cadets visited specific areas such as parks and open spaces, looking for dangerous items, discarded knives or other weapons.

If found, items are pointed out to one of the adult police team, an assessment made then the item is safely removed.

Cadets found a discarded knife which has now been properly secured and no longer risks potential harm or injury to anyone.



Cadets in Force areas across the UK regularly support their local police teams through positive events such as this, reassuring communities and making a difference through youth volunteering.

All activities are risk assessed, supervised by police colleagues and others who are additionally adult VPC Leaders, with appropriate briefing, kit and processes in place.

## Also Tackling Knife Crime....

Cadets from **Cleveland Police, Middlesbrough Unit** have created a short video with advice and guidance around knife crime and what to do if someone you know is the victim of knife crime.

- If someone is the victim of knife crime would you know what to do?
- Do you know about SEEP?

Cadets want to continue with the amazing work they have started with [The Chris Cave Foundation](#) during the summer and show their support for all the amazing work they do. They created the short video with advice to try and help raise awareness of this serious issue and it can be found via their Facebook page by clicking the picture below -

