

National VPC Newsletter

December 2022

Welcome to this bumper edition of the National VPC Newsletter, highlighting the activities & achievements of VPC Units, Cadets, and Leaders across the Police Forces of England & Wales.



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.



Remembrance Day 2022



Metropolitan Police Cadets offer own act of remembrance

On 20th November 2022 nearly 300 Volunteer Police Cadets from across London gathered in Central London to participate in the first ever VPC Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph. The event was organised by the Met's Youth Strategy Engagement and Schools Team.

The parade formed up nervously in King Charles Street under the expert tutelage of ex-cadet, now Student Constable, Drillon Morina, PC Gaz Watkinson, PC Bethan Hills and PC Sean Pickering. They were joined by Assistant Commissioner Matt Twist, and Senior Chaplain Jonathan Osborne.

The cadets marched smartly out onto Whitehall led by the Band of the Grenadier Guards and formed up in front of the Cenotaph where the service was held. The Service was led by Senior Chaplain Jonathan Osborne with readings from Head Cadet Becky Palmer (Kingston VPC) and Head Cadet Callum Donohue (Sutton VPC). Wreaths were then laid by Assistant Commissioner Matt Twist, assisted by wreath bearer Cadet Isa Imo and Cadet Excellence award winner Charlie Johnson (Hounslow VPC).



After the service the cadets then marched around the cenotaph back into King Charles Street with a large crowd watching on and applauding.

There were lots of gasps and shouts of joy on dismissal, the cadets realising and, hugely excited, to have represented their boroughs at something so special. We are hopeful that this will be an annual event for the cadets.

PC Paula Cooper BEM, parade organiser said, "What a fantastic event, it never fails to amaze me what a fantastic group of young people our cadets are and to give them the rare opportunity to be a part of an event like this is just amazing privilege. I was stood in front of Charlies mum as he was laying the wreath and she was bursting with pride. "

Senior Chaplain Jonathan Osborne 'This was a great event at an iconic site, and it was very moving to see our cadets march and take part in a service to honour those from the Met who have been killed in conflict. The cadets are a superb advert for the organisation.'

First Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Kent

A Kent Police volunteer has been appointed as the county's new Lord Lieutenant Cadet.

Lewis Gilbert, a Cadet Inspector with the Swanley cadets, is the first of the force's cadets to be honoured in this way and joins young people from the other uniformed forces who were selected in recognition of their duty and devotion to the community.

The 17-year-old will now assist the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, the Lady Colgrain, in her duties and will attend parades.

The Kent Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme began in 2016, with now more than 430 young people aged 13 to 17 involved. Cadets meet weekly for two to three hours during term time and volunteers a further three hours each month to help with a community-based project.

Included in the training programme are drills, uniform care and maintenance, and sessions on the history and current set-up of the police.

Lewis has been a cadet for four years. He set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme which he still runs.



He has used his first aid qualification to help members of the public on several occasions. He also received a Chief Officer's Certificate of Merit for the help he provided to an elderly man after he had a fall.

Whilst attending a unit organised event, Lewis also assisted another force when he became aware of a missing person.

He helped to take details and broadcast them to other cadets.

Lewis was presented with his award during a ceremony in Tunbridge Wells on 13 October 2022.

Cadet Scheme Assistant Manager Anne-Marie Moore said: 'In his time as a cadet, Lewis has consistently demonstrated extraordinary levels of commitment, service and integrity, he has never faltered in his dedication to service

'He has received a total of 12 good work reports, one of the highest number a cadet has ever received. He has volunteered to support countless community and charity events, assisting with student police officer training, leading cadets at drill and supporting other cadets.

'I am delighted he has been recognised in this way, very well deserved.'

Cadets poignant visit to the 'Knife Angel'.

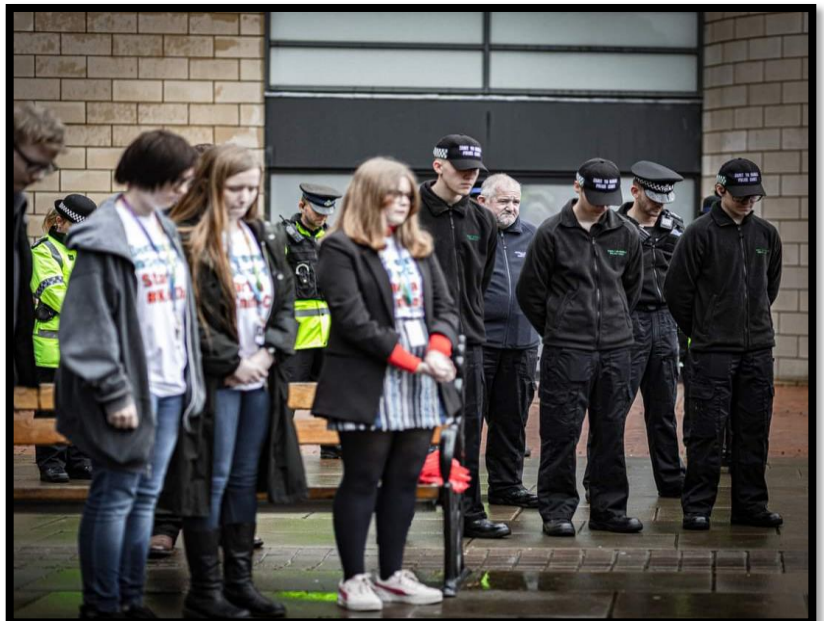
Wrexham & Flintshire cadets from North Wales Police have been at the powerful & staggering Knife Angel in Wrexham.

The sculpture, made from over 100,000 seized blades, was specifically created to highlight the negative effects of violent behaviour whilst solidifying our critical need for social change.



Not only does the Angel act as a catalyst for turning the tide on violent and aggressive behaviour, but it is also acts as a beautiful memorial designed to celebrate those lives who have been lost through these violent and thoughtless actions.

The Knife Angel was always intended to educate children, young people and adults about the harmful effects that violent behaviour has on communities all across our nation.



It has also helped to raise better awareness, helped those carrying knives to renounce violence as a solution for solving disputes, and encouraged leading bodies to create better initiatives to turn the tide on aggressive behaviour.

In under 3 hours, the Cadets collected 363 signatures opposing violence and knife crime.



Helicopter base visit gives Cadets birds eye view.

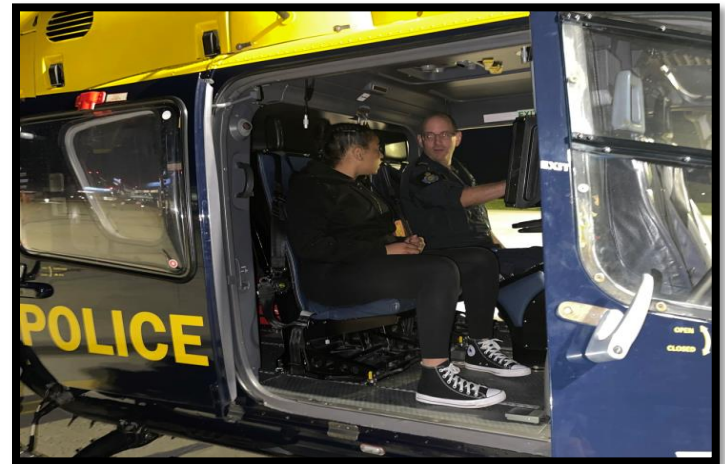
Volunteer Police Cadets from Welwyn Hatfield were given an access all areas tour of the local emergency helicopter base recently.

Fifteen cadets visited the National Police Air Service (NPAS), where they were able to see a police helicopter and given an insight into its capabilities.

During the visit, they were also given a tour of the Herts and Essex Air Ambulance by volunteers, helicopter crew and medical team, who spoke about the life saving work they do.

PC Brad Glover, who leads the Welwyn Hatfield cadets, said: *"I'd like to thank both NPAS and the air ambulance service for having us. The cadets were able to get a great insight into the fantastic work they do to help save lives and keep people safe."*

"This is just one example of the fantastic opportunities that are available to volunteer police cadets here in Hertfordshire. Sessions such as this really help to bring learning to life and prove a great inspiration to these young people."



The volunteer police cadet scheme is open to anyone aged between 13 and 18 who lives or goes to school in Hertfordshire. As well as learning about police procedures and the law, cadets have the opportunity to work alongside local officers and play a vital role in community events, engaging with members of the public and educating them on crime prevention.



Lincolnshire Cadets enjoy a fun-packed weekend

Lincolnshire Police Cadets from Bourne, Grantham and Lincoln enjoyed 3 days of fun activities at PGL Caythorpe



Working on their team building, making new friends around the campfire, learning new skills; buggy building, high ropes, canoeing, fencing and more. Some tired but happy faces at end of a fun packed weekend.



Thames Valley Cadet raises money for Police Treatment Centre



A 14-year-old Thames Valley Police cadet and his 11-year-old brother have raised £650 for Flint House Police Treatment Centre by walking 90 miles over the course of a month.

Liam and Ryan Barnes, who are both autistic, wrote on their fundraising page: "We are walking 90 miles in the month of October for this amazing charity. Too many of our police force get hurt physically and mentally on a daily basis and this place is here to help them."

They set a goal of raising £300 and have so far reached an astonishing £650.

Their mum Natalie said: "My oldest son is a police cadet for Thames Valley Police and my youngest is waiting to join when he's older. They wanted to give something back to the police, and if an officer can attend and get the help, they need they will be extremely happy."

"The boys have both had a lot of amazing support from officers on Twitter, some of whom have attended your amazing facility.

"Both of the boys have autism and they wanted to show that anyone can help others, no matter what."

You can sponsor Liam and Ryan [HERE](#).



Swanley Kent cadets were busy volunteering in their community in September and October and have been involved in three large events.

The Sevenoaks Street Food festival saw cadets helping bring the community together in an event which saw local bands and acts playing, street food vendors, and small businesses selling their products.



The Swanley cadets helped with guest parking and running stalls.

Kent Cadets get in to the community spirit

They Cadets also supported the Edenbridge car show – a huge event which saw thousands of people attending.



Once again, the cadets assisted with the parking and engaging with members of the public helping them with general enquiries and queries about the event. This was a fabulous opportunity to engage with their community.

They Cadets were also invited to attend the British Superbikes Final at Brands Hatch.

This is the biggest event, so far, the cadets have been involved in and once again they found themselves helping with guest parking and queries from members of the public.

They also assisted with the supervision of owners' helicopters!!

As a thank you for all their help, they also got to watch all the races!



Doing it differently in Durham

Durham Volunteer Police Cadet (VPC) scheme was set up in 2014, with a group of 16 young people aged 13-17 years.

The scheme is unique in that it is run by [Durham Agency Against Crime \(DAAC\)](#) a registered charity on behalf of Durham Constabulary.

DAAC is fully responsible for the governance and delivery of the VPC scheme reporting ultimately to the board of directors for the charity, the Force Designated Officer (DRO), currently Assistant Chief Constable Tonia Antonis, is a member of the DAAC board.

The VPC scheme has developed greatly over the years, and currently they have 100+ cadets, now aged 11-18 years meeting weekly during school term time for their cadet curriculum and activity sessions.

In addition to this, like all other VPC schemes, cadets regularly carry out community activities and they support other members of the Durham Policing family.

The also like others hold residential activities and these are held twice yearly during Easter and Summer breaks. Alongside the offer of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, Silver and Gold awards scheme.

DAAC are passionate about learning and development, therefore the provision of vocational qualifications and short courses for our cadets, cadet staff and volunteers, is something that DAAC are proud to be able to offer. This is largely due to the expertise of the staff and the excellent partnership work they currently conduct with local colleges and other qualification providers.



A distinctive feature of their cadet programme is the opportunity for senior cadets to apply for progression into the work environment as Youth Development Workers on a 2-year Durham Police apprenticeship scheme.

They are employed by Durham Police and seconded to DAAC attaining a level 3 qualification in youth work.

Cadets are also supported via employability skills inputs to apply for other apprenticeships and development opportunities both within the Policing family and externally.

Examples of the progression achievements of members of the Durham VPC scheme include but are not limited to –

- Police Officers, PCSO's, Police Staff, Special Constabulary
- NHS
- Local authority and Education
- Health and Social care
- Legal professionals
- Private industry and Engineering
- Hospitality
- Youth Work

Doing it differently in Durham



They currently have previous serving cadets who have returned to conduct the role of volunteer cadet leaders due to their outstanding commitment to Durham VPC and Durham Constabulary.

The words of one ex-cadet and now youth worker with DAAC, Emily, sums it up.

(Picture left – Emily with previous Durham Chief Constable, Mike Barton and the late Police & Crime Commissioner, Ron Hogg)

“I started my journey in 2015 when I first joined Volunteer Police Cadets, at this time I suffered from low self-confidence with limited self-esteem. I was being told from people that I would not amount to anything.

I was not going out of the house much and I struggled to make new friends. My Mam was concerned about me and with her support we began looking for things to help me. We saw the website, but I had missed the application date, I was disappointed, but I applied at the next opportunity. Even though I thought I would not be successful thankfully I was and even the application process and interview helped my confidence increase. I still remember my interview clearly to this day.

I was a cadet for 2 years, taking part in activities which increased my confidence and self-esteem massively, I even got over my fear of heights. I made lots of friends who I realise have now become long term friends.

I got an insight into the Police and realised that my previous experiences with Police had all been negative however I then saw the positive side, this gave me the motivation and confidence to successfully apply to Durham Constabulary for a 2-year Youth Worker apprenticeship. This was extended by DAAC for a further 2 years, during this time I have developed myself hugely, gaining the skills, knowledge, qualifications, and experiences that have led to me being employed full time on a permanent contract as a project coordinator.

My current role allows me to deliver programmes to young people across all of County Durham and Darlington, develop DAAC’s apprentices to meet our standards as well as continuing my role as a Volunteer Cadet Leader.

So, I would like to say to those who doubted me, “Because of the Police Cadets I did amount to something, and I am extremely proud of my achievements, especially when other cadets and young people say - I want to be like Emily”.

Grantham Cadets help local Mayor



Police Cadets from Lincolnshire Police's Grantham Unit attended the Mayor of Grantham's parlour to help spread the message of 'Don't drink and drive this Christmas'

Together with Pc Tony Gallagher the cadets helped breathalyse the Mayor, Councillor Graham Jeal.

The police cadets in attendance were Ryan Hunt, Mollie Hunt, Hannah Franklin, Morgan McDonnell, and Harvey Dobson.



Cadets also joined up with local Army Cadets and the Mayor to welcome the annual Motor Bike Run to the Sports Stadium at Grantham.

Over 300 Bikers arrived keen to help Santa, delivering Toys for Children who otherwise would miss out this Christmas.

All the gifts will be distributed by The 7th Day Adventist Church giving many Children a brighter and merrier Christmas they deserve.



Suffolk Cadets go Dutch

This year, 16 Ipswich cadets, and 4 leaders, returned to Holland following a disrupted period due to Covid. The cadets had a short Harwich port for a ferry trip to Hook of Holland port, finally arriving at a campsite in Oosterbeek although the Cadets had the unenviable task of erecting their tents in the dark!



This Cadets had the opportunity to explore Amsterdam, and had an online scavenger hunt in the city, splitting in to 4 teams and learnt about the history of the city and its interesting sights and characters.



Next, it was off to a meeting point just outside Anne Frank's old house (you can find out more about Anne Frank [HERE](#)) and a canal tour learning more about the city.



Returning to camp, where it was time for the cadets to cook an evening meal on a camping stove. By all accounts they did good!

The main reason for the trip was to take part in the Arnhem March.

The Arnhem March was introduced as far back as 1947 by the local police force as a means to remember the sacrifice of the allied forces during Operation Market Garden in 1944. This was a plan, devised by Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery, to hopefully get the allies into Germany quickly and end the war. The plan was for airborne troops to take and hold 4 bridges so that armoured forces could drive from Belgium, into Germany, unimpeded. Ultimately this failed for number of reasons, and a large amount of the allied troops were killed or captured. The Arnhem March, or Airborne Wandeltocht in Dutch, is a walk rather than march around the battlefield sites of Oosterbeek and the surrounding area.



After arriving at the start line the cadets joined the uniformed groups for the initial parade through the town centre past the Airborne Memorial and Hartenstein Hotel.

From the town centre, the route took the cadets to the Airborne Cemetery, where there are approx. 1700 allied graves, the youngest of which we found was 17 years old, a similar age to some of the cadets taking part in the march.

At the cemetery, the cadets marched down to the memorial, where they recited the words to the last post and showed their respects, before then continuing the passing a number of fields that were used for the parachute and glider landings, past the Old Church (Oude Kerk) which was used as a meeting point during the retreat, and then finally back up into the town for the final stretch.

Before reaching the finish, the cadets stopped off at the Hartenstein Hotel for a group photo, before finally 'crawling' over the line.

It's safe to say that all cadets, and leaders, had an amazing time away and all returned with some memories that will remain with them for a long time.



Cumbria Cadets 'Talk & Tidy'

A strong, meaningful, and sustainable connection between the police, the public and other agencies is the bedrock of effective neighbourhood policing.

This principle extends far beyond simply being present in a location and listening to others. It starts from the position that the police family are part of a much wider family: the community of which it serves. And it isn't just listening either. It's about talking. Really talking. Understanding and working together to solve problems. Shared problems which belong to everyone: Not just the residents. Not just the police. Not just local councils. Everyone.

There was plenty of shared ownership and talking happening between members of the Whitehaven community, including Cumbria Constabulary and Police Cadets in October at in Whitehaven town centre as part of Talk n Tidy - a monthly event organised by the Local Focus Hub with the aim of tidying up local areas and giving the community an opportunity to speak to one and other, share information and concerns, seek support, and to socialise.

Anyone would have found it difficult not to notice the Police Cadets, proudly dressed in their uniforms and armed with litter pickers, gloves and rubbish bags, more importantly, they will have noticed their embodiment of what it means to be a police cadet: participating positively in their communities, with a sense of fun and adventure, whilst



supporting local policing priorities.

"We received really good feedback from members of the public on the police cadet's efforts," said PC Gail Buchanan from the Copeland Neighbourhood Policing Team, *"the public were pleased to see them in town helping their communities."*

If you had listened closely to the conversations taking place between those present, which included Cumbria Constabulary, Police Cadets, Castle and Coasts, Copeland Council and Home Group, you will have heard something special: a relationship between the police and the public, of which the Cadets are so fundamental, that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and that the public are the police. Nothing demonstrates this quite so poignantly than a turnout of Police Cadets to such an event.

"These events give local communities a chance to speak to a number of our partner agencies," said PC Buchanan, *"we would encourage the community to come to these events to support cleaning up their area and also see what support is available from the partner agencies."*

Cyber Security showdown

Cadets from Surrey scored higher than industry professionals in CYBER GRIFFIN training run by the City of London Police

In November, the Woking VPC Unit played host to the [Cyber Griffin](#) Team from the City of London Police.

This is a dedicated team of Detective Constables that seek to educate the public on all things Cyber Security, they conduct preventative work seeking to disrupt criminals as well as investigating Cyber Crime.



The team kindly delivered to the Cadets the same tabletop training package that is provided to industry professionals. Cadets from multiple units across Surrey were in attendance at the first of these events. The feedback showed that the Cadets did exceptionally well, outperforming their adult counterparts !

Woking Cadet Ben Jefferey who took part in the training writes the following report:

“The tabletop exercise was a game which consisted of Lego combined with Cyber Security aspects. As a team we had to work together as the board of directors to pick security measures to protect our business the best we could.

Every round we would be given money to progress our security as it was continually tested by hackers to break into the system.

I enjoyed the Cyber tabletop exercise as I feel like it gave me good insight towards the world of Cyber Security.

It was interesting to learn about both the physical side of security as well as the software side and seeing how they interact and complement each other. I found it both interesting and intuitive as the game easily grabbed my attention.

Finally, I liked how it gave you a score with the money aspect and you could compare yourself to other people that tried the game giving it a competitive aspect.”



This fantastic opportunity came about thanks to Unit Leader Bennetts who led a delegation of Surrey Cadets to the International Security Expo at the Excel Olympia in September this year.

At the Expo, Unit Leader Bennetts connected with the City of London Police's Cyber Griffin team, forging a working relationship which led to the delivery of the Cyber Griffin training to our cadets.



CYBER GRIFFIN



(The opportunity for Cadets to attend the security Expo's both in London and Birmingham is due to the strong partnership between the National VPC and the Security Institute. Invites are extended annually for a number of Cadets to attend, to engage with and learn more about the wide spectrum of roles within the security industry security).

Sutton Cadets get special recognition

Sutton VPC (Met. Police) are the first VPC unit to partner with the [Chris Donovan Trust](#), an award-winning restorative justice charity run by Ray and Vi Donovan (MBE's).

In 2001, a week before his 19th birthday, their son Chris was brutally attacked by a group of drunken youths, in an unprovoked assault which cost him his life. The young offenders, then aged 21, 17 and 16, all received substantial custodial sentences



Chris's parents set up the charity in his memory. Using their own devastating experience, they help to educate people about the impact of crime on a victim, their family, and the wider society.

They do so by sharing their story and experience with a wide audience including students, criminal justice professionals, victims of crime and offenders.

Sutton Cadets have formed a strong and positive bond with Ray and Vi, and are the leading local youth group promoting awareness, understanding and compassion.

As a result of their hard work and commitment, Ray and Vi presented Sutton VPC with a special recognition award, which means so much to everyone taking part

Chris Donovan Trust
Changing lives, making a difference



North Yorkshire Cadets deliver messages to the residents

Cadets from North Yorkshires, Catterick Unit assisted the local Safer Neighbourhood Team in Catterick with Operation Cracker in November.

The Cadets spent the evening doing a leaflet drop and speaking with residents educating them on how to stay safe during the festive period.

Busy year from Cadets from the City of London



In their busiest year ever, City of London VPCs have taken part in over 75 events both locally and nationally, supporting local policing teams and working with other Cadet groups including Army Cadets and Air Cadets.

At their 2022 VPC Passing Out Parade, the Lord Mayor of London welcomed his first ever “Lord Mayor’s Cadet” which was a very proud moment.

The City of London VPC were invited to march in the 2022 Lord Mayor’s Show and were very proud to support their Lord Mayor at this iconic, historic annual event.



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

