



Promoting a practical understanding of policing amongst all young people

*

Encouraging the spirit of adventure and good citizenship

*

Supporting local policing priorities through volunteering and giving young people a chance to be heard

*

Inspiring young people to participate positively in their communities.

Welcome to the February 2026 edition of the National VPC newsletter. This action-packed summer edition highlights the activities & achievements of VPC Units, Cadets, and Leaders across the VPC in supporting Police Forces & Communities whilst developing young people

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

Follow us -



Wiltshire Cadets got wrapping!



In December, the Cadets, staff from **Wiltshire Police** and staff from Swindon Borough Councils wrapped donations from local businesses, schools and football clubs for children who will be in the Social Care system over the Christmas period.

Danika Schofield from the Home Finding Team started the evening by telling the Cadets about where the presents will go. It was clear that for some children these presents would be the only ones they would receive

Sadly, over Christmas there would be 300 Children in the Social Care system, and this Toy Drive will ensure that no child woke up on Christmas morning without a gift of some kind.

Mrs Schofield said that in Christmas 2024 a little girl received a pair of donated gloves, and when she was given them by her Social Worker she was overwhelmed as they matched a pair that her best friend had at School – she continued to wear these gloves for months afterwards.

experiences like this, and we are sure you will agree, this is truly heartbreaking but shows the difference that these Toy Drives make.

The Wiltshire Police Cadets wrapped over 400 presents in total, and these will be handed out to Children over the Christmas period.



Also just before Christmas, **Swindon Cadets** were supporting and acting as marshals (wearing elf hats) at The Mental-“Elf” Charity run, for MIND, a charity that supports people and empowers communities to create a mentally healthy society, this event which was held at GWR Park in Swindon saw over 200 runners be supported by the Cadets to raise money for the charity.



Cumbria Cadets 'Storm' it!

Despite being cut short due to Storm Brem, Cadets from **Cumbria VPC** were given a fabulous opportunity in December, with funded places to visit Brathay Outdoor Adventure Centre in Ambleside.

16 Cadets and 3 leaders attended the residential in mid-December which started.

Even though their time was cut short they had there was lots of fun and Cumbria VPC are hoping to return in the new year.



While they were there, the cadets did teambuilding exercises, went on a night walk, paddled whaler boats on the beautiful Windermere Lake and did they some high and low rope courses.

Lancashire VPC Co-Ordinator Commended



Runner up for Lancshires' George Herbert Redman Award was VPC Co-Ordinator **Kien Phuong**

Kien was commended for his exceptional dedication to community service and youth engagement.

As VPC Coordinator, he has led initiatives such as litter picks and clean-up events that have improved local environments and fostered pride among residents.

Beyond operational duties, Kien has mentored young cadets from challenging backgrounds, helping them build confidence, resilience, and a positive connection to policing.

His organisation of awards evenings further reflects his commitment to recognising achievement and inspiring future generations.

In addition, Kien volunteers as a Special Constable, supporting frontline policing across East Lancashire.

His willingness to undertake advanced training and serve in demanding roles demonstrates professionalism and civic pride. Kien's contributions have had a tangible and lasting impact on community wellbeing, youth development, and public confidence in policing. His actions exemplify the very highest standards of service and integrity, and he stands as a credit to Lancashire Constabulary.



Thames Valley Cadets' outstanding service



A 17-year-old who grew up in foster care has been named Thames Valley Police's (TVP) cadet of 2025.

Betsy, (pictured left) who lives in Berkshire, hosted sessions about fostering for her fellow Cadets.

She was awarded a certificate by TVP's Chief Constable Jason Hogg for her outstanding service to its Thames Valley VPC, which included acting as head cadet.

"There are a lot of misconceptions. A lot of people assume that I do drugs or that I'm really troubled and that I'm going to influence their child the wrong way, which obviously I'm not. We had sessions where I told cadets the truth. I told them about different branches of care...that foster care is not like Tracy Beaker and the Dumping Ground – that's a different kind of care. I furthered this by having my social worker come in who described it from a social worker's point of view."

Betsy said, *"When I was four, I was picked up by the police from school and taken into care... I have been in and out of the system. But when I went into care for the third time, I was picked up by my social worker and I just kind of realised that the police were there as a safety tool to make sure everything was OK."*

She wants to go to university and take a role in family law in the future. Betsy is also campaigning for changes that have been supported by the government and included in its Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, which is making its way through Parliament.

"I'm definitely proud of how I managed to help people in care get closer to the police,"

Hertfordshire Cadets learn about CBRN



East Hertfordshire - Police Cadets attended a session to deliver an engaging input on CBRN awareness.

To make the session interactive and memorable, the trainer fully dressed in his specialist CBRN kit.

An eager cadet was kitted up and given a real insight into the equipment and procedures officers use in these critical situations along with some stories about jobs they have attended.

A full fun packed session which the cadets enjoyed.

CBRN stands for **C**hemical, **B**iological, **R**adiological, and **N**uclear.

It refers to the handling, defence against, and threats posed by hazardous materials in these four categories, which can be deployed maliciously (terrorism, warfare) or released accidentally.



Staffordshire Cadets celebrate anniversary



Cadets from **Staffordshire VPC** attended St Editha's Church for a special celebration service commemorating the 1100th anniversary of the marriage of St. Editha and Sihtric of York.

The wonderful event featured music, reading & poetry was well attended by residents of Tamworth and beyond.

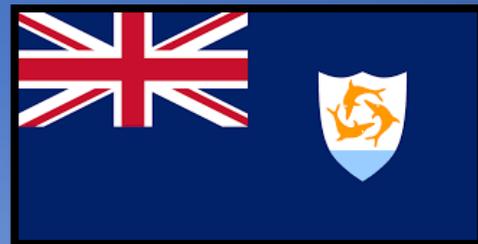
The Bishop of Lichfield also dedicated a number of new benches to the churchyard. The cadets once again did themselves proud, welcoming attendees in to the church and assisting with collections. On a very cold end to January, they were extremely grateful to be rewarded with hot chocolate and cake.



International Volunteer Police Cadets

In January, two team members from the **National Volunteer Police Cadet Safeguarding & Standards Hub** had the privilege of being invited to Anguilla, in the Caribbean to advise on the creation of a Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme on the island.

National VPC safeguarding Manager, Helen Nellany and National VPC Operational Delivery Manager, Mick Urwin were asked by the Home Office International Police Assistance Service (IPAS) to visit Anguilla, an overseas British territory, and advise the Island Governor and Police Commissioner on the feasibility of a VPC scheme .



Helen and Mick (pictured right with IPAS colleagues) spent a week on the Island meeting with local officials, other uniformed youth groups and stakeholders to understand the needs of young people on the Island and how a VPC scheme could be of benefit. Discussing the aims and objectives of both the VPC and Mini Police programs.

The trip, wholly funded by the Home Office, was an eye opener with the team finding out first-hand the challenges that young people face and the lack of diversionary activities available .

Anguilla is one of the most northerly of the Leeward Islands in the Lesser Antilles, lying east of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and directly north of Saint Martin. The territory consists of the main island of Anguilla, approximately 16 miles long by 3 miles wide at its widest point, with a population of approximately 16,000.

The Royal Anguilla Police Force is the Island police service and the current Police Commissioner is Robert Muir Clark, who previously served with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)



Anguilla has seen a surge in gang related crime and youth violence spilling into schools. The National VPC team were keen to understand the drivers behind this and what was already available for young people on the Island, especially those in the last year of primary school transitioning to the Islands secondary school.

As a result of their visit the National VPC team have written a comprehensive assessment which has been provided to both the Islands Governor and Police Commissioner with options for them to consider in creating a VPC scheme. Conversations will continue with the support of the National VPC to ensure whatever is introduced is safe for the young people on the island and conforms to a set of Safe to Operate Standards, similar to those that VPC schemes

Helen and Mick were struck by the enthusiasm for a VPC scheme on the Island and how everyone they met were friendly and welcoming.

Met. Police celebrate VPC at awards evening



The Metropolitan Police held their Jack Petchey Awards Ceremony at Kensington Great Hall in January.

Awards were presented to their exceptional cadets — young people whose commitment, character, and contribution to their communities truly embody the spirit of the VPC.

This event was a brilliant celebration not only of the achievements of the cadets, but also of the outstanding dedication shown by our coordinators, volunteers, supporters, and all those who work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep this programme thriving. Their passion and continued efforts ensure our young people have opportunities to grow, lead, and make a real difference across London.



Established in 1999 by Sir Jack Petchey, the Jack Petchey Foundation aims to raise the aspirations of young people aged 11–25 in London and Essex. The flagship Achievement Award Scheme recognizes personal, non-academic success, granting over £200-£300 to winners to spend on school/group projects. It has supported thousands of young people.

Sir Jack Petchey was an incredible inspiration to everyone. He was born into a working class family in the East End of London in 1925, left school at 13 and then joined the Navy in 1943. After leaving the Navy, he began working as a clerk for a solicitor's firm. He applied for management training but was told he would never make a businessman.

Instead of giving up, Sir Jack used his £60 life savings, which included the gratuity pay from the Navy, to buy a second hand car and started a taxi business. Through hard work and innovative thinking, he proved them wrong and built a multi-million-pound empire. Sir Jack's experiences led to his passion to increase young peoples' aspirations by rewarding their achievements.

He died on 27th June 2024, aged 98, however his words live on -

"If you think you can, you can!"





Kent celebrate success and share good

In February, 23 members of **Kent Police's Child-Centred Policing Team**—including both PCs and PCSOs—came together for the second Annual Mini Cadet Conference, a day dedicated to celebrating success, sharing best practice, and shaping the future of their Mini Cadet Programme.

The event was organised and led by **Mini and Junior Cadet Coordinator Julia Lindon Taylor**, whose hard work in planning and facilitating the day ensured it was productive, engaging, and collaborative. Attendees described the conference as informative, enjoyable, and a valuable opportunity to reflect, connect and innovate.



The day focused on recognising the achievements of Mini Cadet leaders across the county, highlighting the positive impact officers and staff have made in delivering meaningful early years engagement to children aged 8–11. The programme continues to grow in reach and reputation, offering young people a fun, structured and empowering introduction to policing values and community responsibility.

In the afternoon, sessions centred on development—exploring ways to enhance delivery, strengthen consistency, and embed creativity across units. Breakout workshops encouraged leaders to share ideas, practical resources, and local successes, helping build a united and supportive Mini Cadet community.

Cadet Manager Anne-Marie Moore praised both the Child-Centred Policing Team and Julia's leadership, saying:

"The success of the programme is very much down to the enthusiasm and engagement of the Child-Centred Policing Team and the leadership of Julia who directs the ship. It is fantastic to be able to reach children as young as 9 with a positive policing influence and hope that many of them will remain in the policing family, joining our junior and senior cadets."

Her comments reflect the growing recognition that early engagement not only supports children's confidence and resilience, but also builds positive, long-term relationships between young people and their local policing teams.

With overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees, this year's conference has reinforced the importance of dedicated time for development and collaboration.

As the Mini Cadet Programme continues to expand, opportunities such as this ensure leaders feel supported, connected and equipped to deliver the highest-quality experiences for young people.

The enthusiasm in the room made one thing clear: the future of Kent's Mini Cadets is bright, and its leaders are deeply committed to helping young people thrive.



Durham Cadets take part in Operation Hawkeye

In February Cadets from Durham assisted the Chester-Le-Street Neighbourhood Policing Team with Operation Hawkeye alongside PCSOs Richards, Holmes and Ross.

A total of 12 Junior Volunteer Police Cadets took part in the operation. The cadets were tasked with conducting vehicle security checks by trying car doors to identify any vehicles left unlocked, as well as carrying out a leaflet drop to local residents to provide crime prevention advice. All done under supervision of PCSOs and Senior cadet leaders.



During the operation, 14 vehicles were found to be unlocked. Advice leaflets were delivered to approximately 200 houses across two housing estates.

The cadets were enthusiastic and outstanding throughout the activity, demonstrating excellent communication skills when engaging with residents. The feedback and reception from the community was overwhelmingly positive, with residents being very welcoming and appreciative of the advice provided.

Thank you to PCSO Richards and CSC Daniels for inviting the Cadets to support Operation Hawkeye. Special thanks also to the Durham Agency Against Crime (DAAC) apprentices, Tilly and Jack, as well as volunteer leaders, Stephen and Owen. Without their continued support, the Junior Cadets would not be able to participate in such valuable community activities.

West Lancashire Cadets receive special visit



West Lancashire Police Cadets were honoured to welcome the High Sheriff of Lancashire, who joined us for an inspiring visit.



The Cadets showcased their ongoing projects, demonstrated their teamwork and commitment to supporting our local communities, and spoke proudly about the skills they've been developing. The High Sheriff took time to speak with the young people individually, recognising their dedication, enthusiasm, and the positive impact they're already making.

A huge well done to all our Cadets for representing West Lancashire so brilliantly — and a big thank you to the High Sheriff for taking the time to meet and encourage our future leaders



Northumbria Cadets step into the world of CSI



It may not have been as glamorous as CSI: Miami or CSI: Las Vegas, but CSI: Northumbria is no less as interesting!

North Tyneside police cadets got off to a great start to the new year as they stepped into the world of Crime Scene Investigation.

After learning how to lift fingerprints, identify footwear impressions, and preserve evidence, they were put straight to the test, using their brand-new skills to solve a simulated burglary.

The cadets worked methodically through the mock crime scene — lifting prints, analysing marks, and piecing together clues to identify their suspect.

Cadet leaders were proud of how professionally the Cadets approached the task and how quickly they picked up these real policing techniques



North Wales talk road safety

As part of the Road safety and Public order inputs, **North Wales Cadets** visited Lea Green, PSU training centre during the February Half term. They received an input, assisted in training scenarios and met the newly appointed Assistant Chief Constable.





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*](mailto:vpc.admin@vpc.police.uk)

