



Promoting a practical understanding of policing amongst all young people

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Encouraging the spirit of adventure and good citizenship

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

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Inspiring young people to participate positively in their communities.

Welcome to the October 2025 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

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National VPC named finalists in Safeguarding Awards



The **National Volunteer Police Cadets (NVPC) Safeguarding & Standards Hub** has been selected as a finalist in the Outstanding Commitment to Safeguarding category at the Safeguarding & Child Protection Association (SACPA) Safeguarding Awards 2025.

The Hub, is dedicated to ensuring that all Police Forces operating a Volunteer Police Cadet scheme do so safely — protecting both Cadets and Adult Leaders.

A key achievement has been the creation of the **NVPC Safe to Operate Standards**, adopted nationally by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC). Each Force is required to complete an annual self-assessment against these standards, reviewed by the National VPC team to identify and share good practice and provide advice and guidance where improvements can be made.

The Hub has also implemented an online safeguarding case management system, enabling VPC Coordinators and Leaders to manage low-level safeguarding concerns locally, while giving the Hub valuable oversight of national trends. This insight supports the development of targeted resources and training materials made available for adult leaders across all VPC schemes.

In addition to this, the National Team delivers virtual safeguarding training — mandatory for every VPC Leader — ensuring consistency in standards, understanding, and approach across all VPC schemes.

This small, but highly dedicated team is funded by the National Police Chiefs' Council for three core members and a successful bid to access Government funding allowed for three additional staff to ad to the team ,currently, until March 2026. The team is immensely proud to be recognised as a finalist and looks forward to the award winners being announced in early November.

👉 You can find out more about the members of the NVPC Safeguarding & Standards Hub [\[HERE\]](#).





Lancashire VPC coordinator nominated for prestigious award.

A **Lancashire VPC** Coordinator has been nominated for a prestigious award.

Kien Phoung, Cadet Coordinator for Lancashire's Burnley & Hyndburn VPC units has been nominated for the George Herbert Redman Award.

Supported by the George Herbert Redman Trust, the annual award is given to a serving officer or member of police staff in recognition who has demonstrated going "above and beyond the call of duty" e.g., undertaking a significant amount of work (in their own time) operating beyond their normal area of work.

Ultimately, it is about delivering a "premium" service to their communities, to the extent that it has significantly improved their quality of life and enhanced community wellbeing.



The George Herbert Redman Trustees met in September to consider this year's nominations and Kien although not selected as this year's winner, the Trustees were extremely impressed with the work he has undertaken for Lancashire and wanted to formally recognise this by selecting him as this year's runner up. As runner up, the trustees have awarded him £500 to donate to a charity of his choice.

In addition, the Trustees have asked that your nomination be highlighted to the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide him with an insight into the incredible work he is undertaking for the force, as they believe it is worthy of further recognition.



Kent VPC get unique opportunity

Kent VPC recently had the extraordinary opportunity to assist with the training of the Specialist Firearms Officers (SFO's) in an undisclosed location. Over the course of four separate training days, cadets played a vital role in supporting realistic scenario-based exercises designed to prepare officers for high-risk operations.

This rare experience allowed cadets to:

- Meet and interact with SFO officers, gaining insight into their specialist roles and responsibilities.

- Participate in four immersive scenarios, each designed to challenge and simulate real-life tactical situations.

- Engage in what felt like the biggest game of hide and seek of their lives, helping SFO teams sharpen their search and engagement skills.

The Central Team is incredibly grateful to the SFO unit for welcoming our cadets into such a high-level training environment. This kind of exposure is exceptionally rare, offering our young people a glimpse into a world that few teenagers—or even adults—will ever experience.

Not only did the cadets contribute meaningfully to the training, but they also walked away with a deeper understanding of policing, teamwork, and the importance of precision and discipline in critical operations

This collaboration highlights the value of the Kent Police Cadet Programme in providing real-world experiences that inspire, educate, and empower the next generation of public service leaders.





Bitter-sweet celebrations in Warwickshire



It was a bittersweet celebration at Warwickshire Police weekend 30th and 31st August, as we welcomed 60 new cadets into force while also saying a fond farewell to 26 of our current cohort.

Over 200 friends and family were present to watch the ceremony, which was also attended by ACC Claire Armes, Det Supt Helen Waite, Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Secombe and the High Sheriff of Warwickshire Mrs Karen Lynch.

While the new intake proudly received their lanyards and ID badges, the cadets leaving the scheme were presented with medals for their voluntary service to Warwickshire.

PC Lee Marston from our Youth Engagement Team said: *"It was truly an amazing weekend for our cadets – the bar was set high and we put on a ceremony to be proud of. 60 new cadets marched with confidence*

and swagger, half of those had learnt to march in just over a day! A big thank you to all of our amazing volunteer leaders who supported us and the cadets throughout the weekend. A warm welcome to our new cohort, and a very fond farewell to all of those leaving us."

Some lovely feedback was received from parents of cadets who are leaving the scheme:

"Joining the cadets has truly been a transformative experience for my daughter. Over the past two years, I've seen her grow in confidence, discipline, and resilience."

"The structure and challenges offered through the cadet scheme have helped her step outside her comfort zone and take on responsibilities with maturity well beyond her years."

"The cadets have given her a purpose and a sense of belonging, and I'm incredibly grateful for the mentors and fellow cadets who have encouraged and supported her along the way. Watching her grow through this scheme has been inspiring."

"I just wanted to say a huge thank you for everything that you and the other cadet leaders/volunteers have done for our son over his two years as a cadet. He has grown so much in confidence and self-esteem and learnt so many skills thanks to all of you and the opportunities that the cadet scheme offers."

"When he first started he was too shy to go anywhere new or speak to anyone he didn't know without the reassurance of a familiar face being present, but that is no longer the case. He has had so much support that has helped him overcome this and he has taken every volunteering opportunity available. The scheme took him out of his comfort zone and pushed him to try new things in a supportive environment."

"I can't thank you both enough as he wouldn't be where he is now without the cadet scheme. I hope that you are able to support many other young people in the way that you have supported him for many years to come."



"We as a family would like to thank you both for the support, hard work, belief and guidance you've poured into Amelia throughout her four years of being a North Warwickshire Police cadet. Without your dedication and commitment to her she simply wouldn't be half the person she is today and as parents we couldn't be more proud and grateful."

"Thank you for your time and efforts organising volunteering opportunities that have provided her with the experiences, the knowledge she has and the transferable skills she has developed."

"Amelia was very proud to wear the police cadet uniform, not only to represent the cadets but Warwickshire Police as a force. It's been a privilege for her to wear this uniform and to be a part of the Warwickshire Police family."





Northumbria welcome new Cadets

Young people across the Northumbria Police area have been joining their local VPC schemes.

A proud moment unfolded at **Northern Counties School** in Jesmond as a brand-new cohort of Volunteer Police Cadets officially joined the Northumbria Police family. In a heartwarming attestation ceremony attended by the entire school, the cadets took their oath and were welcomed by Chief Superintendent Rob Boisson, marking the beginning of an exciting journey.



This new unit builds on the success of Northumbria's longstanding partnership with Percy Hedley and mirrors the innovative hybrid model developed at Hedley College — blending elements of both the VPC and Mini Police programmes. The Northern Counties initiative is designed to celebrate ability over disability, offering meaningful opportunities for young people with visual and hearing impairments to engage with policing and community safety.

Led by Cadet Leader Lesley and supported by Assistant Cadet Leader Nathan, the cadets have already hit the ground running. They have received engaging inputs from the local Fire Service, visited the Northumbria Police Communications Centre, and preparing to take part in a speed-watch patrol. This activity will help raise awareness of the impact speeding can have on visually and hearing-impaired individuals — a powerful message from a passionate group of young advocates.



The **Percy Hedley Unit** have also welcomed new Cadets.

Seven new Volunteer Police Cadets into the North Tyneside Area Command, following their official attestation ceremony at Hedley's College. Each cadet proudly took the Cadet Oath and was formally sworn in by Chief Inspector for Communities, Dave Morrison, marking the beginning of an exciting journey in policing and community service.

This intake — the fourth cohort to join the programme — marks the fourth intake of cadets and celebrates the unit's continued success and innovation. The Cadets are set for an action-packed

year, which will see them take part in a wide range of policing inputs, community engagement duties, and social action projects - all designed to build confidence, develop skills, and make a real difference in their local area.

A fantastic evening of pride and celebration marked the attestation of 21 new Year 1 Cadets at our **Newcastle Unit**.

In front of proud families and guests, the cadets took their oath and were officially welcomed into the Northumbria Police family by Chief Inspector Nigel Bennett.

The event was a true team effort, with older cadets stepping up to support by serving refreshments and helping guests connect after the ceremony — a great example of the camaraderie and leadership that runs through the unit.



Suffolk VPC head over the Channel



In August, 32 members of the Suffolk Volunteer Cadets, 26 cadets and 6 leaders from all 8 units in Suffolk, headed off to France for the annual activity trip.

Although they were re-visiting France, this time they headed to Normandy rather than Paris. This was a chance for the units to bond, as there are limited opportunities throughout the year for the units to work together, whilst also building on their teamwork.

All cadets attending had the opportunity to experience new countries and culture, whilst ultimately having fun.

There was also an additional reason for some of the trip, as we were tying in some of the activities with The Suffolk Regiment and their actions on D-Day.



Following a very early 6am start, which must have been interesting for those cadets from the furthest reaches of East and West of the county having to get up at 3-4am, they left Landmark House in Ipswich via minibuses and a kit van, headed for the Eurotunnel at Folkestone.

Once again, onboard were a few cadets who had never travelled abroad before, so this must have been an interesting experience, but fortunately there were no delays and we arrived at the campsite, Huttopia in the Calvados area of Normandy, at approx. 4.30pm French time.

The following morning, the cadets were able to have a small lay-in, and after breakfast of croissants/pain au chocolate/cereals, it was time to head to Eole Aventure for the day's activities. These were an inflatable assault course on a lake in the morning, followed by paintball in the afternoon. Due to the size of our group, the cadets were creating minor chaos on the lake but were also involving each other in teamwork to get themselves across obstacles which was good to see, especially as some of them had really only known each other for 24 hours.



Day 3, the cadets were awoken slightly earlier (a struggle for some, including leaders), and following a similar breakfast as the previous day, they headed off to Ouistreham and Sword Beach, for the first part of our history/educational tour of D-Day.

Sword Beach was chosen in particular, as it was the beach where the majority of British troops had landed on D-Day. The cadets had a chance to stand on Sword Beach, and through an information booklet provided to them prior to the trip, a VPC Leader acting as tour guide, were given the chance to imagine what the beach looked like on D-Day using then and now photos and imagination. They were then able to have the first of several group photos at the 70th D-Day memorial.

From Sword Beach, the cadets headed to Hermanville Cemetery. This site was chosen, as it holds the graves of several Suffolk regiment soldiers. Using the Commonwealth War Graves website, we had from Sword Beach, the cadets headed to Hermanville Cemetery. This site was chosen, as it holds the graves of several Suffolk regiment soldiers. Using the Commonwealth War Graves website, we had



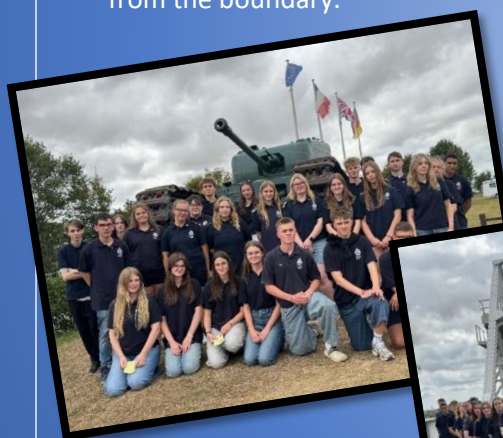
Next stop was the Merville Battery, which was a major German gun emplacement overlooking Sword Beach.

This was assaulted by 150 Paras on D-Day from an original plan of 600 troops, and had they not been successful it is likely there would have been significantly more casualties on the beach.

Unfortunately, the Cadets were unable to do a full tour of the site, having run out of time before lunch, so just managed a quick look from the boundary.



The Cadets then visited Pegasus Bridge, the Pegasus Memorial Museum The Bridge was taken by the Paras in the early hours of D-Day, following a truly amazing landing by the glider pilots in pitch darkness. The final stop of the day being Hillman Fort.



Day 4 was another slightly later start, and today we were off to the City of Caen, a major transport hub for the area which made it a prime target for the allies on D-Day.

After arriving in the city, it was off to a café near the castle for a 'French' breakfast, following which the cadets were given 90 mins free time to wander the area which included the ancient castle, home of William the Conqueror in 1060AD.

Next stop was a supermarket complex for a bit more shopping, followed by a trip to Prison Island. For those of you old enough to remember, Prison Island is based on the gameshow Crystal Maze where each 'cell' has a challenge to be completed in a time limit.

From the point of view of the leaders, and hopefully the cadets, it was another successful international trip for Suffolk. Each cadet would have learnt new skills, whether cooking, cleaning, teamwork, or language skills (though most only managed the bare minimum French), but each would have definitely taken away amazing memories, and a little more respect for the sacrifice given by the soldiers on D-Day. Once again, a lot of the success must go down to Matt Breeze, who carried out his own recce of the majority of locations weeks before the event. A big thanks also goes out to the remaining leaders too, Alison Lavender (cadet co-ordinator), Rianna Coote (Lowestoft), Andrew Derrett (Martlesham) and Daniel Haddock (Ipswich).





Nottinghamshire Cadets support community

Over August, Police Cadets from around Nottinghamshire supported their local Neighbourhood Policing Team in hosting Community events every Thursday.

During this time, the Cadets helped with running activities and engaging with families who attended the fun day, whilst also staying behind after to help take part in a litter pick, ensuring the park was kept clean and safe for others to use.



Sussex Cadets get bruised and battered

Crawley Police Cadets went home battered and bruised after an evening with the Casualties Union.

The Casualties Union are a registered charity and independent voluntary organisation dedicated to creating realistic training experiences for the medical profession, emergency services, and first aid instructors.

Their members expertly portray injured or ill patients, helping healthcare professionals, rescuers, and first responders develop vital skills in care, diagnosis, and treatment. More information about their work can be found by visiting their website -

www.casualtiesunion.co.uk



Throughout the evening the cadets had to deal with a number of different first aid scenarios where they faced very realistic injuries and patients.

They had to deal with scenarios including cuts, burns, bleeding, and shock. For the last part of the session the Cadets learnt how to make cuts and bruises using basic equipment and makeup and were able to practice these skills on each other leaving the unit looking like they had been through a major incident.





Cadets welcomed at international security event

Thanks to our good friends at Nineteen Group, once again Volunteer Police Cadets from across the UK were invited as VIP guests to this year's prestigious International Security Expo at Olympia London, one of the biggest in Europe.



Bringing together corporate and public sector organisations, military and law enforcement, cyber crime, fraud prevention, drones, AI, training, technology and specialists from around the world, this event gave a unique opportunity to see deep inside.

Cadets met CEOs, senior leaders, specialists and innovators, seeing new tech first hand and trying out new kit.

They also met specialist dog teams and their hard working four-legged operatives!



VPC teams from several police force regions stepped up and were invited to this Expo.

Dedicated cadet coordinator Roma from Barnet VPC said-

"This is a fantastic opportunity for our young people to see inside a whole world many may never even have known existed. These events really inspire our young teenagers and give them so much to take back, seeing what may lie beyond GCSEs and after school or college, and why hard work and commitment is so important for each one of them. Thank you so much David and all our hosts today, we've had a great time!"

Thank you PC Roma and everyone who works so hard, giving up so much of their own time, to make a difference in VPC and opening up opportunities like this for their young people.



Thames Valley take care of Officers' final resting places



The West Berkshire Police Cadets have proudly adopted some graves of former police officers buried in the Newtown Road cemetery in Newbury.



The graves belong to

- Inspector William Gallop
- Superintendent George Deane
- PC Albert Alexander
- Sergeant William Morton



With the help of the "Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery" group the Cadets have been able to research & adopt the graves and will be regularly tidying them up to keep them looking the best they can.



Cumbria Cadets spend more time outside

Carlisle Cadet Unit have spent as much time out of the classroom as possible practicing drill, completing team building exercises and vehicle searching.



The unit had a visit from Dog handler PC Mann and his PD's Otto (Belgian Malinois) and Drake (Labrador).

Drake demonstrated his searching skills and as Otto is just a puppy in training his best skill was going to the toilet on command, a well needed skill!

Carlisle and Penrith Cadets joined forces to assist with the Race for Life at Carlisle's Bitts park.

The units were briefed at 10:15, raring to go and praying the rain held off, they were given volunteer bibs and told where they were needed.

3 groups were split across course with stations at the starting line, to help organise each starting group into the right place to ensure the waves went out smoothly, the a pretty muddy obstacle called 'Ex-Squeeze me' where the cadets gave encouragement and a cooling splash of cold water to the participants, and one group at the end to hand out encouragement and medals to those crossing the finish line, giving huge extra cheers to anyone who rang the 'We Beat Cancer Bell'



Penrith Police Cadets had an early start in July to assist at the Penrith Agricultural Show which attracts thousands of visitors, helping the organisers in keeping the event safe.

Cadets spent 8 hours manning the gates, which allow the horses in and out of the arena. This is the first time police cadets have attended the event, but cadets soon picked up the skills they needed to keep both those in attendance and those competing safe between each event.

Cadets were able to engage with visitors and locals alike to assist with directions (usually to find the toilets) and other queries throughout the day. The Police and Crime Commissioner also dropped by to say hello.



Penrith Cadets also supported a local trail run organised by the Rotary club in October, cheering on runners and marshalling the event.

Kendal Police Cadets classroom based inputs have consisted of, Drill, First Aid, searching of people and a debate on the complexities of Searching people and why it may be seen negatively by the public.

As well as classroom based inputs, Kendal Cadets have taken part in a number of Community based engagements, like litter picking. Engaging with the public in a positive way is a huge part of Police Cadets as well as taking pride in the area that we live.

Litter picking is one of the ways we try to combine all of those things.



Kendal Cadets also took part in the Mayors Parade.

Cadets took part alongside Cadet Leaders in the Mayors Parade celebrating 450 years on the Elizabeth Charter. The focus of the Parade was "Volunteering in Kendal".

Met Police VPC activity



Cadets from the Met Police **Barnet VPC Unit** (pictured right) joined Officers/Staff from the Met Police Hindu Association at the SKLPC Mela event in Northolt. This is an annual event in the Hindu community which usually takes place before the Hindu festival of Navaratri.

The Cadets assisted with community engagement especially with the young people in attendance, letting them try on items of Police uniform as well as showing them around an Immediate Response Vehicle



During the summer school holidays VPC coordinators from **Kensington & Chelsea VPC** delivered a packed itinerary of events for cadets both in direct support of local policing teams and diversionary/educational activities (Pictured left)



It's been a busy last couple of months for **Richmond VPC**. First up was the Met In The Park event held in Twickenham where members of the public came along to meet the police and

learn about the various roles that exist and have some fun at the same time. The cadets were asked if there were any artists among them and it wasn't long before their facepainting skills were put to the test. There was a long queue the whole day of eager young people wanting their faces painted by the cadets and it was great that so many of them asked the cadets about their uniform and how to join. It was a long day in the sun but the cadets did the Borough Command Unit proud



Richmond also attended the annual Thriftwood competition. This year we only had 6 cadets available on the day which saw Richmond at a disadvantage as teams usually consist of 10 cadets.

The 6 however performed really well and despite the lack of personnel, the 6 cadets worked indefatigably at each scenario one after the other.

At the end of the long day, there was a real buzz amongst the team who gave it their all and I'm delighted and proud to say that out of the 15 teams that took part, Richmond Finished in 6th place despite the fact there was only 6 of them! Outstanding Richmond!



Enfield VPC attended an Emergency Services Day. The day event was to celebrate the Emergency Services across the board and opened up by Deputy Mayor Of Enfield. It marked the incredible work that takes place across the country by all services which also involved the Cadets from Enfield.

One Cadet was the first to start raising the Flag at the Civic Centre. (Left)





A snapshot from West Yorkshire VPC



Leeds West Cadets have been busy working alongside Pudsey Scarecrow Festival Team and other partner agencies to set up for the annual Scarecrow Festival. Cadets arrived for a prompt 8:00am start on a September Sunday in cold, wet conditions but got straight to work, transforming Pudsey Park into a festival delight.

Their favourite part of the morning was helping decorate trees with hanging decorations and bunting before getting to see all the wonderful scarecrows placed around the park. Feedback from event organisers was that it was fantastic to see young people up and helping so early on a weekend morning and they really appreciated all the extra hands on deck to set up for a fun filled family day!

Wakefield Cadets along with the Special Constabulary and regular officers attended the Armed Forces Day at Pontefract Park.

Officers gave members of the public a useful insight into the world of policing taking along marked police vehicles, uniforms and the all-important mascots!



Cadet units from across the force have been donning their outdoor gear and tackling two days in the elements as part of their Bronze DofE Award.

On day one, Cadets used their map reading skills to navigate to a campsite where they stayed overnight to rest up ready to tackle another day of navigation on day two. As a result, over 100 Cadets will gain their Bronze DofE Award through West Yorkshire Police Cadets. Well done and congratulations to all the Cadets, Cadet Leaders and staff who were involved.



In September the **Bradford Cadet units** held their year one awards ceremony where Cadet and DofE certificates were presented to over 40 Cadets by senior officers from Bradford District.

The Cadets from the Bradford West/South/City Unit also donated over £190 to the Food Pantry – one of the districts food banks.

This money was raised through a Bake Sale run by the Cadets and a generous donation by the Trafalgar House Police Station Tuck Shop. Bradford cadets also took part in the Sue Ryder Hospice 5k walk.

The event saw the walkers taking a short train ride on the Worth Valley Railway before embarking on the 5K walk on a Saturday evening over varying terrain. One of our four-legged friends "Cadet Bobby" also joined in!



The Cadets raised a staggering £2,323 and were supported by 122 donations for this amazing charity.



Sue Ryder

Starlight
Hike



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)

