

National VPC Newsletter

June 2023



Welcome to this 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.

Do you have a story that can be shared with everyone? Has your Cadet unit done something to shout about?

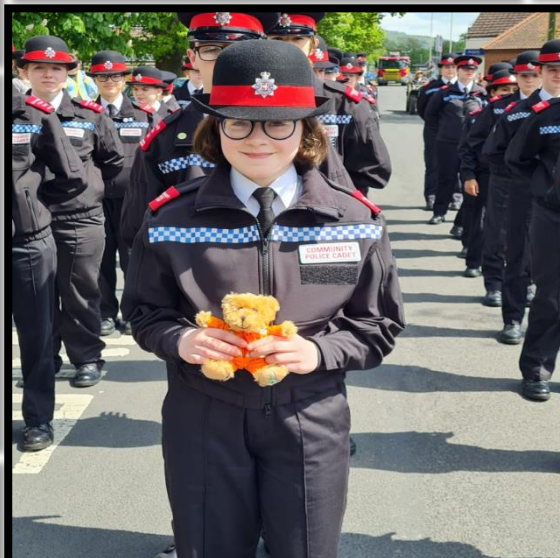
If so, contact us at - vpc.admin@vpc.police.uk



A right Royal edition !



First up was the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III in May. Cadets from across England & Wales came out in force to support national and local events to mark the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III in May. Cadets took part in parades and supported local community events to celebrate the occasion.





King Charles III Birthday Honours



Cadet Leaders awarded honours in the Kings Birthday Honours list.

Congratulations to Cadet Leaders who were recently awarded honours in the King's Birthday Honours list. Recognising their contribution to their local VPC schemes.

All our leaders deserve our thanks and praise for the dedication and enthusiasm they show in working with young people for all different kinds of backgrounds to develop them as individuals.

Double recognition for Humberside VPC leaders



Danny Fleming, a Humberside police officer with almost 20 years' service receives the Kings Police Medal (KPM) for his services to policing and for his role as an ambassador for Humberside Police in his capacity as a cadet leader and community cohesion officer. In his spare time, Danny works tirelessly to support a huge number of charities that work with some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

On the accolade Chief Constable Lee Freeman KPM said; *"Danny is a very worthy recipient of the Kings Police Medal. He regularly acts as ambassador for Humberside Police and is incredibly effective at engaging hard-to-reach communities and those in need. This award is well deserved and testament to all he does for Humberside and the community at large."*

In his spare time, Danny is a world-class bagpipe player, often representing the force at events across the country, and holds the Guinness World Record for the largest private collection of bagpipes!

Graham Benson, a retired officer, receives the British Empire Medal (BEM) for his commitment to the community and for his 40 years' service working first as a police officer, and then returning quickly after retiring as a volunteer for Humberside Police. With nearly half a century of commitment to Humberside Police, Graham is the epitome of Humberside Police – he knows his local community incredibly well, gives back to the community through his work with the Police Cadets, and is a true advocate for the region.

"Graham is a worthy recipient of a British Empire Medal," said Chief Constable Lee Freeman KPM. *"He has worked tirelessly for over 45 years to protect and serve the communities of the East Riding. He is well-regarded, well-known, and much-loved among both our colleagues and the community."*

"I'd like to take this time to thank Graham, on behalf of everyone at Humberside Police, for his dedication to the Force – he is one of our longest serving officers in history, so today's acknowledgement is very much deserved."





King Charles III Birthday Honours



Essex VPC leader awarded BEM

PC Steve Judd was recognised for his volunteering work to establish a brand-new Volunteer Police Cadet unit for the Castle Point & Rochford area in May 2017.

He started the Castle Point & Rochford unit with 35 cadets and found eight other leaders who all volunteered their services to work with the young people.

This was a significant operation to set up, ensuring all safeguarding and risk assessments were in place, as well as all leaders being DBS checked.

Steve has given more than 2,000 hours and been fully dedicated to the welfare and development of the young people; this is on top of his busy role as a police officer.



He took it upon himself to research and plan trips to Belgium to the World War One and Two battlefield tours to educate and raise awareness amongst the cadets of the sacrifices the British and world soldiers made for world freedom.

During those trips, the cadets were given the honour of taking part in parades at the Menin Gate Ceremony, in Ypres, where they laid wreaths. This is the first time Essex Police cadets had ever taken part in this ceremony.

To date the Castle Point & Rochford Cadets are the largest unit in Essex Police and they have attended more than 50 local community events and raised more than £4,000 for charities.

This would not have happened without the voluntary hard work and dedication of Steve who has driven both cadet leaders and cadets to achieve the results the young people are now able to channel back into the community.

More about the awards -



The **King's Police Medal (KPM)** is awarded to police in the United Kingdom for gallantry or distinguished service.



The **British Empire Medal (BEM)** is granted in recognition of meritorious civil or military service.

Trooping the Colour



Cadet Leaders from Gwent took 6 cadets to the recent Trooping of the Colour in London, only Welsh force to attend and cheer on the Welsh Guards!

It was an early 5.00am start from Gwent and after a quick pitstop at Reading, got to London around 8:30am.

They made their way to Admiralty Arch where they took up their position in escorted Youth enclosure right across from Horse guards Parade. They watched the various divisions and their bands march up the Mall and onto the parade square.



They then watched the Royal family arrive in carriages and the King and senior royals arrive on horseback. After watching the spectacular display and the return parades, the Metropolitan Police formed a line across the Mall. Behind the Met horses and the police officers forming the line was a line of Metropolitan Police Cadets.

Gwent along with Cadets from Hertfordshire, and the West Midlands Police lined up behind them with other youth groups behind them. They then all paraded down the Mall with many cheers and applause from the public lining the route.

Gwent Cadets were astonished and absolutely loved it, it made them feel so special. When they got to the Queen Victoria memorial fountain the public were held back by another line of Officers behind the youth groups and we were allowed to go up to the opened gates of Buckingham Palace just below the balcony. Soon out came the Royal family and the cadets cheered and waved excitedly. They then watched the wonderful flypast by the RAF aircraft past and present before the finale of the Red Arrows spewing out the red, white and blue.



We think it's fair to say that Prince Louis summed up how the Cadets all felt being part of the day!



Leicestershire Cadets get their boots on for a good cause



At 3am on Saturday morning, teams from police forces across the country battled gale force winds and driving rain to come together to "Light the Lakes" in memory of officers that have lost their lives on duty. The event takes place every year in the Lake District and raises funds for COPS (Care of Police Survivors), a charity that provides help to families of fallen officers.

Sgt Charlotte Dickens, along with Superintendent Emma Maxwell, led a team of 40 Leicestershire police cadets, 13 cadet leaders and 11 young people from Germany to the summits of three different peaks. The team battled gale force winds and torrential rain, but every one of them made it to their respective peaks to illuminate their lights at 3 o'clock!



Charlotte said, "We are very lucky to have such a dedicated team who provide these amazing opportunities for our young people. We are the only force to have taken our cadets on this challenge, and each of them completed it with a huge smile on their face, despite the awful weather conditions. "As a group, the cadets managed to raise a massive £1,067 for COPS, which is just amazing. Thank you to everyone that took part".

It's not too late to donate- A special song has been composed for the Light the Lakes called 'Blue Angels' by Tim Newman and all proceeds from every download got to COPS. Head over to the [Light the Lakes](#) Facebook page to have a listen and download it.

Care of Police Survivors (COPS) is a charity that supports the families of police officers and staff who have lost their lives on duty. 2023 is the 20th anniversary of the charity. You can find out more about COPS [here](#).



CARE OF POLICE SURVIVORS

North Yorkshire involved in Pride



York and Scarborough Cadets and Leaders attended York Pride and got involved in the pride parade through York on Saturday 3rd June! It was an amazing day, and they did a fantastic job representing North Yorkshire Police



On a sunny Sunday 16th April 2023, after a 2 year absence due to the pandemic, the Annual Police Cadet Parade took place at Great Finborough School Stowmarket.

The event was attended by more than 70 cadets from across the county's 8 units, 3 of which are in partnership with the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service.

Also in attendance were several VIPs including the new High Sheriff of Suffolk, Mark Pendleton, PCC Tim Passmore, several senior officers from both Suffolk Constabulary, the Suffolk Fire and Rescue service this included ACC Bridger and CFO John Lacey. Some mayors and councillors from the local authorities.



Suffolk hold their first annual Police and Emergency Cadet parade since lockdown



The Annual Parade is an event to celebrate the excellent work and activities that the cadet units have been involved in within their communities over the past year and to reward individuals for their contribution to the community and their cadet unit.

Among the awards given was cadet of the year which was presented to Cadet Issy Reeve.

The cadets, looking very smart in their uniforms, marched into the assembly hall where they formed up in front of family, friends and guests. A big thank you to Pc Trevor Spinlove who orchestrated the drill. The cadets were inspected before being stood at ease.



Ex cadet, now cadet leader and special constable, Felix Whiting, and Cadet Issy Reeve spoke about their cadet journey and how cadets had had a profound influence on their lives and personal development.

A wonderful day in a beautiful setting celebrating achievements by young people.



The National Volunteer Police Cadet Safeguarding & Standards Hub are excited to announce that Deputy Chief Constable Rob Jones of Suffolk Constabulary has very recently taken over the National Police Chiefs Council portfolio lead for the VPC.

We look forward to working with DCC Jones going forward.



Lancashire celebrate the achievements of Cadets and Leaders

On the last day of National Volunteers Week, Wednesday 7th June, Lancashire Police held their annual awards night for Cadets and Leaders from the Lancaster and Morecambe VPC unit, they celebrated their achievements and successes from the last 12 months, and gave thanks and recognition to all their volunteer police cadet leaders.



Cadet Jack awarded.
'Cadet of the Year'



VPC Leader Beth awarded.
'Cadet Leader of the Year'



Cadet Connor awarded.
'John Miller Award'



Also celebrated on the night was VPC leader Phil, who was recognised for his long service as a volunteer with the Cadets.

Whilst Cadets, Lexi and Harvey spoke to the audience telling cadets and guests, what being a cadet meant to them and the positive influence the scheme has had on them.

Inspector James Martin presented the awards.



Great Yarmouth Cadet elected as Mayor's Cadet



Cadet Harry from Great Yarmouth VPC been elected as Mayor's Cadet.

Mayor's Cadet is an amazing opportunity which offers a cadet the chance to be part of the Mayoral Civic Year.

The role will go alongside the Harry's normal duties and will consist of supporting Their Worship during their time in office. This could consist of assisting the Mayor of Great Yarmouth with their robes & chain, attending Civic functions throughout the year, welcoming people during events and taking an active role representing the Great Yarmouth Borough during the Mayor's term in office.

Harry will be the Mayor's Cadet until the end of the Mayor's term in office. After this date a new cadet will be appointed by the incoming Mayor to take over the position.



West Mercia Cadets assist with Operation Sceptre



West Mercia volunteer Police cadets have been playing their part to help tackle knife crime, by assisting officers during Operation Sceptre week of action which ran from Monday May 15 to Sunday 21st.

Cadets from all five units which are based at Worcester, Ledbury, Redditch, Shrewsbury, and Telford Police Stations took part.

The cadets conducted knife sweeps with the safer neighbourhood team in local parks, issued leaflets to local residents and also received knife crime inputs during their weekly session.



One unit also took part in a test purchase operation where cadets attempted to buy knives without identification.

Citizens in policing coordinator for operational volunteers Nathan Pawley said, "It was fantastic see the cadets involved in this police operation. The children really enjoy working out in the community, interacting with the public whilst delivering an important message."

OPERATION

SCEPTRE





Nottingham Cadets engage with the public at Emergency Services Day

On Saturday 20th May, 7 Cadets and 3 leaders attended Wollaton Park as part of the Emergency Service Day, where all emergency services showcased their skills and put on demonstrations for visitors to the event. As well as this, the event also hosted the final of the annual National Police Dog Trials which this year was held in Nottinghamshire.

The Cadets engaged with the public, handing out leaflets promoting the Volunteer Police Cadet Programme for both potential Cadets & Leaders, with a lot of interest being shown. All Cadets who attended helped at the Nottinghamshire Police stand and got involved talking with the community, working alongside officers!

PCSO Lucy Oram, says "the highlights of the day must have been assisting with the Air Ambulance landing and taking off, supporting a missing child whilst the parents located them and then engaging in helping with the very popular Op Reacher stand in the afternoon. The cadets were confident in speaking and engaging with the many visitors."

The day was greatly enjoyed by all involved and was a great experience for the cadets who had the opportunity to take part.

A fantastic job done by all!



Kent charity praises Dover VPC



Western Heights Preservation Society is a volunteer-run organisation set up for the conservation, preservation, and interpretation of the Western Heights fortifications in Dover, Kent. They promote and publicise the Western Heights. Clearing, tidying, and protecting the built heritage. Collecting and spreading information about the Heights and work towards improving public access to parts of the site that are currently inaccessible.

The Dover VPC unit has worked with the society for several years, and recently a post was placed on the societies social media page praising the Cadets and comparing them to another group of young people who had been at the site.

Mike Orchard a Trustee of the society posted –

“Over the last month I have interacted with two group of young people.

The first were a group of young people who were trying to get into the Drop Redoubt with a ladder by getting round a metal plate. They were disrespectful, abusive, threatening violence and complaining that its wasn't their fault because there was nothing for them to do.”



“The second were Dover police cadets (some are pictured right) who are the same age but poles apart in their maturity, attitude, and behaviours. They turn up voluntarily month after month, whatever the weather to work hard to the benefit of the community without ever complaining. Well done to all. We at Western Heights Preservation Society are lucky to have them.”

This post on social media is a testament to the Cadets and Leaders at Dover VPC. Two aims of the VPC scheme is to –

Making a difference in local communities, building character, confidence, and contribution through youth-led social action.

And

Building trust and confidence between young people, their communities, and the police.

It is obvious that those young people in Dover VPC are doing exactly that - alongside young people involved in VPC schemes across all police forces in England & Wales. Developing into responsible citizens and showing that young people do care about where they live.

Cadets from Wales celebrate Earth Day



Back in April, South Wales Police Youth Volunteers along with Cadets from Gwent and Dyfed Powys Police took part in this year's Earth Day environmental activities in conjunction with the Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park.

On arrival, they split into 3 groups to undertake environmental activities, namely:

- Planting wild seeds near visitor centre
- Millennium garden maintenance
- Pond care

After lunch, they embarked on a self-directed walk in the Bannau Brycheiniog (maps were provided!)

The Cadets & PYVs were the only young volunteers representing the emergency services this year.

Merseyside Cadets go all European



Eurovision 2023 was held in Liverpool. The city was chosen to host on behalf of the 2022 winners Ukraine as due to the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia it was not possible to for the event to be hosted there.

Merseyside VPC were given the opportunity to assist with the Forces policing operation; Operation Lightyear, with 20 Cadets assisting throughout the week of the event. Working with members for the Citizens in Policing Team and Specials, the cadets had a fantastic time with dozens of members of the public speaking with the cadets.

Surrey Police Open Day



On Sunday 23 April 2023 Surrey Police were thrilled to once again be able to open their doors to members of the public, colleagues, friends, and family to showcase the Force and what it can offer.



Over 40 volunteer police cadets and their leaders volunteered their time to support this great event. The cadets were divided into teams supervised by a leader and supported various roles during the day on a rotational basis to ensure the event ran smoothly. Some of the roles they were tasked with included:

- Meeting and greeting the visitors as they came into the event
- Handing out event information sheets to visitors
- Putting together cardboard police hats for children
- Helping children produce a fingerprint bookmark and try on police uniform

It was a rainy start to the day, but this did not dampen the spirits of the volunteer police cadets or the visitors who came along in their droves. Highlights included listening to the Surrey Police Band, watching the police dog displays and demonstrations on the use of police drones, Tasers, personal safety training, plus much, much more!

In between their volunteering duties, cadets were able to enjoy the various elements of the day along with their friends and families.



Also in Surrey....the Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme is privileged to be supported by the High Sheriff of Surrey, whose office has regularly provided patronage for a High Sheriff's Cadet.

The recipient of this prestigious role provides support to the High Sheriff by assisting at some of the many county visits and events which they host or take part in.

For the 2023/24 shrieval year, after some stiff competition, Surrey Heath Head Cadet Abigail LEWIS was selected to take up this post.

Of her cadet career so far, Abigail said: *"I have been a member of Surrey's Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme for just over three years since January 2020. I was made Head Cadet of the Surrey Heath Cadet Unit in 2022. I have attended many volunteering and educational events with the cadets and some of my highlights include taking part in Race for Life in aid of Cancer Research, attending Guildford Crown Court, participating in Police Riot Training and The Army Challenge Day."*

Adding: *"I would love to be a mounted police officer in the future. I am looking forward to working with the High Sheriff this year and I hope to have many more exciting and engaging experiences as the High Sheriff's Volunteer Police Cadet."* - Congratulations Abigail!



City of London VPC get artistic



City of London VPC gave up a weekend to again paint more custody walls at Bishopsgate Police Station.

The Cadets were asked by City of London Commissioner to design a calming, welcoming mural for the prisoner cell block walls at Bishopsgate, which over a weekend working with the custody team, they designed and painted.



Cadets from Colwyn Bay walk for charity

North Wales Cadets, based in Colwyn Bay, undertook a charity walk on behalf of Blind Veterans UK, from Llandudno Pier to Colwyn Bay Pier.



Rebuilding lives after sight loss





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 –

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Deadline for articles for the next edition is Monday 28th August.

