

National VPC Newsletter

February 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



NATIONAL CRIMEBEAT



**THE YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION CHARITY
OF THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION OF ENGLAND & WALES**



Lancashire Police, Nelson & Colne police cadet unit has got through as a finalist in the national CrimeBeat Awards 2023.

They have been invited to the Awards Ceremony at the Royal National Hotel in London on 21st March, where they will present their project “- By Young People 4 Young People”.

This was a cadet initiative created to give talks in schools to their peers on keeping safe in daily lives, subjects created and delivered included peer pressure, staying safe online, internet safety and staying safe while using social media.

Good luck to Nelson & Colne VPC! – we look forward to seeing how you get on at the awards ceremony.

Look out for an update in the next newsletter.



The Derbyshire Mini Police scheme has been awarded a commendation from the National CrimeBeat Awards.

Their application made it through to the final 6. They may not have made the final 3 but huge congratulations to them all with an application that impressed the judges who congratulated the Derbyshire Mini Police scheme in tackling important issues and engaging with so many schools – 13 schools and 721 pupils.

The judges described it as a difficult decision as they were up against some very strong projects in the final judging and were delighted to be able to award a commendation.

Derbyshire Police are holding an awards ceremony to celebrate, so look out for more in the next edition of the National VPC newsletter.

National Crimebeat is the youth crime prevention charity of the High Sheriffs' Association and is governed by trustees who are mainly former High Sheriffs. It has no employees, and the raising of sponsorship and organising of the annual award ceremony is undertaken by the trustees who do not receive any form of remuneration. National Crimebeat now focuses on providing a prestigious annual awards ceremony to give recognition to the most innovative and successful crime prevention projects carried out by young people aged between 5 and 25 years. The purpose of National Crimebeat is to give recognition to the most innovative and successful crime prevention projects carried out by young people. They encompass the whole of England and Wales, and projects can be submitted from any organisation or individual.

New Northumbria VPC unit nominated for Diversity Award



We highlighted back in our October newsletter Northumbria Police have established a new Volunteer Police Cadet unit at Percy Hedley College, Newcastle,

We are pleased to announce that this has led to them being nominated and shortlisted for a British Diversity Award, the result of which will be announced in March.

The British Diversity Awards, founded by diversity champion Linda Riley, promote the values of equality, diversity, and inclusion by rewarding those individuals, organisations and unsung heroes who help to make the world and the workplace a better place for others. The new VPC unit has been nominated for "Community Project of the Year".

Superintendent Claire Wheatley said: "Our volunteering work has always been about connecting communities to policing and policing to communities

"I am extremely proud of our volunteers and the variety of opportunities we have here at #TeamNP.

"To be nominated and shortlisted for this award is a fantastic achievement and I couldn't be prouder of our cadets and the scheme that has been introduced, good luck and I look forward to hearing the outcome in March".

Northumbria Police is very fortunate to have a significant number of volunteers working alongside our staff and officers, who freely give up their own valuable time to the benefit of the communities served by our police force.

We wish our new cadet's luck at the awards ceremony which will take place at the end of March in London.



High 'Calibre' of Cadet in Merseyside



OPERATION
©ALIBRE

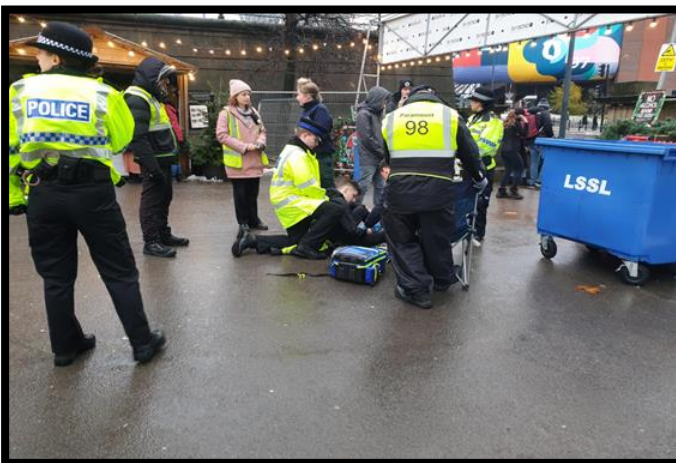
Merseyside Police Cadets collaborated with the Merseyside Police Special Constables on an anti-theft operation called 'Operation Calibre' back in December. in the lead up to Christmas.

Operation Calibre, was a new national initiative to tackle personal robbery, launched on Saturday 10 December and continued until Saturday 17 December. The national operation was part of intensified efforts to crack down on personal robbery.

Throughout the week of forces looked to target habitual offenders. There was also focus on the different strands of education, engagement, prevention, and enforcement, all of which are important in playing our part to reduce personal robbery.



The Cadets provided personal safety advice and gave out crime safety literature and over 300 anti-theft purse bells to the public. The Cadets and Specials also assisted in providing first aid when they were first on scene to a male who had collapsed, providing support and comfort prior to the ambulance attending.



Community
first

Busy Christmas for Cadets from North Wales



Cadets from cross North Wales has an exceptionally busy period leading up to last Christmas!

The Conwy Unit assisted at the Llandudno Santa Dash.



Denbigh Unit assisted at the Denbigh Christmas Fayre. They even had chance to meet the big man himself Whist the Wrexham unit attended the Bellvue Christmas Light Switch on and Wrexham unit attended the Wrexham Christmas Market on numerous occasions.

The Conwy Unit were at it again, they were invited to attend and assist in the annual Christmas Carol Concert, held at St Asaph Cathedral and also carried out community engagement event at the annual Medieval parade through the streets of Conwy.



North Gwynedd and Anglesey unit attended the Christmas cracker event in Bangor City and Cadet Units across North Wales joined in for the 'Save the children's Christmas Jumper Event,' donating their own money to the cause.



Dartford VPC delivered Christmas cheer to the residents of Emerson Grange Care Home, Hextable, Kent, in the lead up to Christmas led by Cadet Leader Staff Edginton.



Kent Cadets spread Christmas cheer



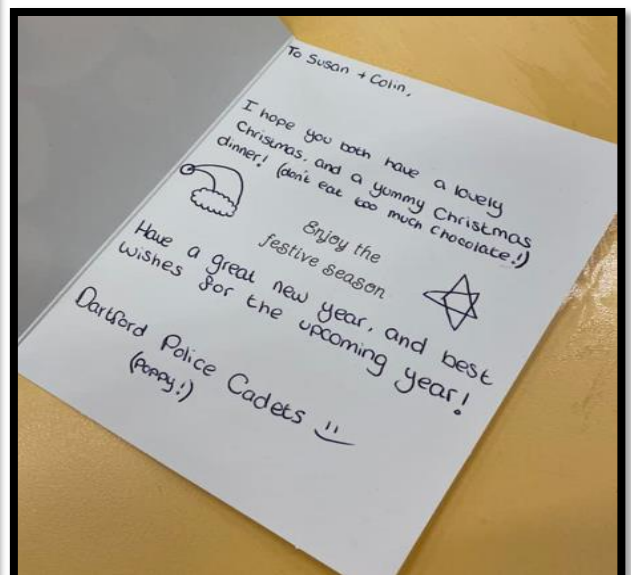
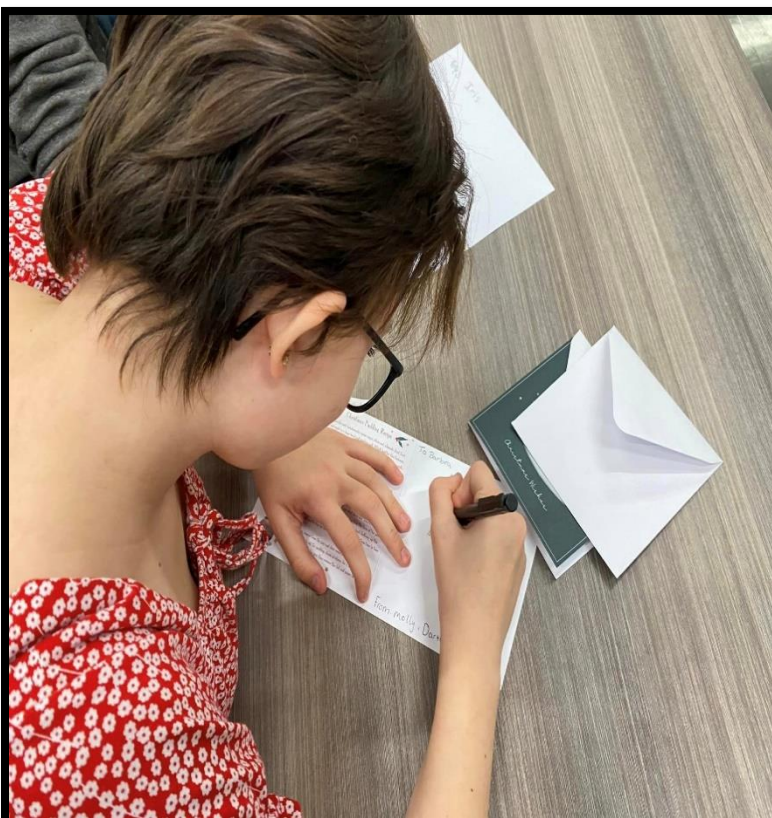
Cadets had previously visited the care home at the beginning of December assisting with the Christmas Fayre where they made teas/coffees, set up the tables and chairs, welcomed the visitors and family members to the event as well as engaging with the residents.

The care home supports individuals with different levels of Dementia but also is a retirement village however, the cadets did brilliantly and adapted to each resident's needs.

After meeting with the residents' cadets were provided with names from the Care Home organiser so they could write personal Christmas Cards to the residents they met. On the 17th December they sat with the residents during a coffee morning, where they exchanged conversations on a wide range of topics, making it a memorable day.



The residents were over the moon with the visit and said the cadets did themselves proud, were communicative, friendly, demonstrated maturity and were upbeat and positive. They look forward to seeing them again soon.





Suffolk Cadets are "Nine Half Pints of the Law"

In November, Suffolk Constabulary's Sudbury Unit had a go at entering a seasonal picture into their Suffolk Chief Management Teams "Xmas Card Photo Competition".

In short... they won!
With the picture (right).



The card was sent out to local MP's, dignitaries, and the like from Suffolk Constabulary last Christmas.



The inspiration came originally from the famed Jedd cartoon image of "Nine Half Pints of the Law" – pictured left - but they dispensed with the cigarette and the product placement – whilst making it Christmas themed and had a good laugh whilst doing it – well done to all!

In November and December, Derbyshire Constabulary were lucky enough to be the third force to host the Anti-Violence Bee. This fantastic sculpture was created by the British Ironwork Centre in conjunction with Greater Manchester Police (GMP) using weapons collected as part of their 'Forever Amnesty'.



Derbyshire Police Cadets 'Bee'ing anti- violence educators.



Hampshire Cadets go 'Hyper'



Just before Christmas, Hampshire Cadets and their VPC Leaders were dispatched by the 'HYPER' Team (Hampshire's Young Peoples Emergency Response) to assist aid with giving out bottles of water to local residents due to loss of water in partnership with Southern Water.

They volunteered on both days just a few days before Christmas.

They received a lot of positive feedback from the public!

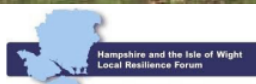


HYPER

Hampshire Young Peoples
Emergency Response

The Hampshire Young Peoples Emergency Response programme is a partnership between Hampshire Scouts, Hampshire Constabulary Volunteer Police Cadets, Fire and Rescue Service and Hampshire Constabulary working with the Local Resilience Forum. It is for those young people aged between 13 (cadets), 14(explorers) and 17 years.

Hyper was started in 2018 by a small project group, with the support of the Chief Constable. A policy was drawn up, leaders were trained and then in October 2019, 30 Scouts and Cadets joined forces at Ferny Crofts to tackle some emergencies: testing their skills and ingenuity in Operation Cornwall.



Cambridgeshire relaunch VPC unit closed during COVID



On Monday 16th January Cambridgeshire Volunteer Police Cadets re-launched the Meadowgate Cadet Unit in Wisbech.

This Cadet unit will be held at Meadowgate Academy and is for pupils at the school.

Meadowgate Academy provides education and pastoral care for pupils aged 2 to 19 years with a wide range of learning difficulties." It is fantastic that we have been able to re-open this Cadet unit after it had to close during the Covid-19 pandemic projects.

Inspector Andy Morris has returned as a Cadet Leader for the unit and has stated, 'having worked with the academy pre covid, I am excited to be back working with Meadowgate and can't wait to get started!'

The re-opening of this unit provides a great opportunity for the Cadets to learn about Policing and to get involved in community. The event was attended by members of the forces' Citizens In Policing team and was opened by Supt Laura Hunt.

Grantham Cadets learn about wildlife



Cadets at Grantham were very grateful for a visit from Lincolnshire Police Wildlife Officer, DC Aaron Flint.

They had an input and discussions about Crimes involving, poaching, coursing, persecution of badgers, birds, and bats.

Aaron also spoke of egg theft and collection and collection of or trade in protected species and animal products. The use of poisons, snares, or explosives to kill or injure animals and animal cruelty. The evening culminated with a viewing of various seized exhibits including Ivory, Birds of Prey, and a wolf. All the cadet wish to say thank you to Aaron for taking the time to speak to them,



Mini Police officer wins PCC's Christmas card competition



Kim McGuinness - Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner invited the Mini Police across the Force to showcase their creative talents and design the PCC's Christmas card for 2022.

We were delighted to see that Khyler, from Academy 360 in Sunderland, was crowned the winner!



As part of #NeighbourhoodPolicingWeek, she was presented with her framed artwork in assembly where she received a huge round of applause from her school mates.

Northumbria Police were on hand to celebrate with her and the school - and it must be said that absolutely everyone who entered from schools across the force area should be really proud of themselves.

Neighbourhood officers work really closely with schools in Northumbria, offering advice and tips on how to stay safe both in the community and online.

It's also great to build a positive understanding with children from a young age, listening to their views and making sure everyone knows that they are there to help and keep them safe.

A huge congratulations to Khyler and everyone who took part in the competition. Amazing work!

West Yorkshire Cadets help raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation



Earlier this month, Cadets from West Yorkshire took part in an undercover operation in Leeds to identify risks around child sexual exploitation in the local hotel and private hire vehicle economy.

The Cadets worked with Officers from Leeds District Safeguarding's Child Vulnerability and Exploitation Team, Leeds North-West Neighbourhood Policing Team and staff from Leeds City Council Taxi and Private Hire Licensing to run a 'test purchase' style operation targeting hotels and private hire vehicles in outer north-west Leeds.



The initiative ran on Saturday night, identified some examples of good practice where deliberate suspicious behaviour was immediately reported to the police, but also other examples where increased awareness and training is needed.

With appropriate safety measures in place, Officers and Cadets played the role of older men and young teenage girls. Working to a carefully devised script, the teams engaged in 'red flag' behaviour while trying to book hotel rooms or while on private hire journeys.

This included overt conversations here they could be heard talking about lying about being over 18, agreeing not to tell parents where they were, reminding them about gifts bought and referring to buying alcohol. Other suspicious behaviour including asking to pay for rooms in cash or without identification and discussing being turned away from other hotels.

Over the course of the evening, they visited four local hotels and took four private hire car journeys in between.

Staff at two of the hotels visited called police with their suspicions, and the teams were refused rooms at the other two hotels, but their concerns were not reported. Staff were debriefed by officers on the night to recognise good practice and offer further advice.

The private hire drivers involved were later subject to 'routine' checks by uniformed police officers and licensing staff, but none raised concerns when asked about their passengers on the night.

Follow-up work is now being carried out around further training, including night-time economy active bystander training, to bolster existing CSE awareness activity in the hotel and private hire trade following the operation.



More information on work to tackle CSE in West Yorkshire's can be found [HERE](#)

National VPC want to create Digital Champions



In partnership with



The National Volunteer Police Cadets has partnered with Barclays to deliver the Barclays Digital Champion programme across the VPC. The programme creates a way to build and develop digital skills within organisations and communities, helping people get the most of technology to thrive in the digital world.

The Barclays four-week programme is aimed at giving Volunteer Police Cadets access to bespoke training, designed specifically to help them understand digital technology and how they can share their knowledge with others, whilst giving them skills to boost their employability.

To become a Digital Champion, Cadets will join four 60-minute virtual sessions hosted by Barclays Digital Eagles where they will meet other like-minded Cadets who want to become Digital Champions too.

They'll also need to complete some specially selected online learning modules in the Barclays Digital Wings online learning platform to help boost their knowledge and give them the skills they need to share with others.

Are you a VPC Leader and interested in taking part or your VPC unit taking part? –

Further information on how to register for the virtual sessions has been circulated to VPC Force coordinators and is also available to VPC Leaders in a National VPC ebulletin which was circulated on the 8th February 2023 and available in the resource library on Marshall Volunteer Portal.

Are you a Cadet interested in taking part? - Please speak to your Unit Leader.

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