

VPC Newsletter



The Aims of the VPC are: -

- 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.

As we approach the summer Volunteer Police Cadet units across are getting involved in activities cross England & Wales, making up for lost time due to COVID.

April saw the restructuring of the National VPC team, now under the leadership of Chief Constable Lisa Winward (North Yorkshire)

with the focus going forward in supporting police forces in the implementation of the recently introduced 'Safe to Operate' standards.

During June we celebrated a unique event, the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. With Cadets supporting many events held across England & Wales

This summer promises to be a great time for Cadets to deliver social action in their communities, whilst also being able to have fun, try new things and challenge themselves.

We look forward to highlighting all of this in the next newsletter.

National VPC



FIND US ON...





In June we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II platinum jubilee – making her the longest reigning monarch in British history. Her Majesty has given 70 years of dedicated Service to the United Kingdom and Commonwealth. Volunteer Police Cadet units were involved in assisting in celebration events and celebrating themselves.





The Queens Platinum Jubilee Birthday Honours

The recently announced Queens Birthday Honours list revealed honours awarded to two well deserving people within the VPC.



The National VPC teams very own **Tim Mann** has been awarded the MBE (Member of the British Empire) for his services to young people. Tim is well known by VPC leaders and cadets alike for his enthusiastic training delivery and sheer positiveness in all things VPC.

"After nearly two decades working with Volunteer Police Cadets both in policing, and outside with the National VPC team, as well as other Uniformed youth groups, youth organisations, charities and key partners in public service and the corporate world, I am very proud and humbled to receive this MBE Award in the Queen's Birthday Honours.



Making a difference, positively encouraging young people and helping to open doors they may never even knew existed, is what this is all about.

And through it all, the person who I think has been the most inspired, uplifted and filled with hope because of them – has been me!



Pc Paula Cooper, who coordinates the VPC activity in the Metropolitan Police is awarded the BEM (British Empire Medal) for enthusiastically supporting and developing over 3,700 volunteer police cadets (VPC) across London since 2015.



She has ensured that the VPC benefits from as wide a range of experiences and opportunities as possible, and her drive and determination has led to 43% of the VPC being from under-represented communities and 49% being female, creating a truly diverse organisation. Her personal investment of hours, work and commitment has enabled the VPC to flourish.

Paula said, "I am really honoured to be receiving this award. I actually didn't believe it initially and I'm really lucky to do a job that I'm really passionate about and really makes a difference to young people. The cadets is such a great programme allowing young people to get an insight and understanding of policing and gain valuable life experience"



'It is a safe and happy space' - What it's like to be a police cadet

(source: East Anglian Times)

Felix Whiting, a member of the Stowmarket Police Cadets, Suffolk has spoken to a local newspaper in about what being a cadet has done for him personally, as well as the advantages for the local community

Felix, from Hitcham, has been a member since he was 13, and now aged 17, he has gone on to become head police cadet, a position he has held since July last year.

He said: *"I love being a police cadet because it gives you a good sense of purpose."*



Felix Whiting, head police cadet with the Stowmarket Police Cadets speaks of what it is like to be a cadet - Credit: Charlotte Bond

"With young people nowadays, there are not a lot of opportunities for young people to do something for the community and give a purpose, so it is quite nice through our work in the community we are able to represent young people in a positive way."

"I joined as soon as I could when I was 13, because I didn't have much to do outside of school, and at the time, I wanted to be a police officer, so it made sense."

"The cadets is a group of young people, and we all get along really well, and it encourages our strengths and gives us more confidence and better communication skills, I have loved meeting new people and learning new skills."

"It is a safe and happy space for young people to come together, and there is no cliques or groups, it is just a great community of youngsters, and we get to help the community at the same time which is fantastic."

National Volunteers Week 2022

June saw the annual celebration of volunteers.



All Cadets in Warwickshire received a letter from the Chief Constable thanking them for their contributions followed by a Pizza treat!



We at the National VPC Safeguarding & Standards Hub wish to thank all our Volunteer Cadets and Leaders for their continuing commitment, enthusiasm, and contributions. Our volunteer Leaders work hard to ensure that our incredible young people become the best they can be. Our Cadets are examples to follow who contribute to raising awareness of important issues, keeping our communities safe and becoming responsible citizens.



Lincolnshire's Mayoral Cadets

On Thursday 26th May 2022 two Grantham Cadets received a warm welcome from the Newly appointed Mayor of Grantham during the 'Mayor Making Ceremony and Reception' at the Council Offices and Guildhall at St Peters Hill in Grantham.

Cadets Jasmine Hempsall and Liam Bailey will assist the Grantham Mayor Cllr Graham Jeal with his Mayoral duties acting as ambassadors of Lincolnshire Police during the next 12 months visiting and supporting our local communities.

Dyfed Powys Cadets Earth Day 2022



Over 70 Dyfed Powys Cadets and Leaders from Pembroke, Ammanford, Cardiff, Gwent, Amman Valley, West Glamorgan, and Talgarth attended an event at the Brecon National Park Visitor Centre, as part of a Youth Emergency Services Earth Day celebration.



The day was action packed and included a litter pick across Mynydd Illtud, and conservation work including pond work, scrub clearing, tidying up, pruning, wildflower planting, litter picking, compost bin building and lots more.

As part of the Earth Day, the Cadets walked to the top of Y Gaer to the Iron Age fort.

The Cadets (and Cadet leaders!) worked hard clearing an area around a pond and some grassy areas of nettles and brambles and rubbish, to create an area for conservation, encouraging wildlife and pond dipping.

The National Park are hoping that it will be an annual event.



Sutton Cadets go Dutch



Cadets from the Metropolitan Police VPC, Sutton Unit set off from London for 3-day visit to Amsterdam

Day 1 of their trip saw visits to Zaanse Schans where there are historic windmills and distinctive green wooden houses to recreate the look of an 18/19 Century village a boat trip across the river, a walk-through Amsterdam seeing the palace, shops and canals, a canal trip and then a tram trip back to Central Station.

On Day 2 they had a guided tour of Anne Frank's house and paid their respects at the National Holocaust Names monument, lunch in Dam Square Amsterdam, fun in the Upside Down our respects at the National Went up the A'DAM Lookout where we took in the wonderful view, and some went on the highest swing in Europe finishing off with a glow in the dark mini golf tournament



Thames Valley award VPC Staff



Two special awards were presented to VPC staff from Thames Valley Police, Bracknell & Wokingham Cadet Unit in Berkshire.

Firstly, Chief Inspector Helen Kenny received an award in Recognition of Service to the Bracknell & Wokingham Cadet Unit where she has been Senior Lead for over 5 years.

The staff and cadets want to thank her for the excellent support and leadership she has given to them and unit and wish her the very best for her future career. Sgt Paul

Bentley takes over as Senior Lead with Stephen Major as Co-ordinator.

The second award was a Chief Constable's 10 years Long Service award that was received by Matt Bugg, a Volunteer Cadet Leader who originally started with the police in Crowthorne.

Matt is moving on again soon, so we want to thank him for his work and wish his family the best in their new home!



High Sheriff Cadets appointed in Humberside



Humberside Police were thrilled to appoint two High Sheriff Cadets this year to support her in

They will provide support the High Sheriff at various events throughout the year. They are rightly very proud of them both.



Leicestershire Police cadets take on the 'Light the Lakes' challenge



A team of Leicestershire Police cadets braved the cold, dark conditions of the Lake District to take part in the 10th Anniversary of the Light the Lakes challenge.

The annual challenge raises money and support for Care of Police Survivors (COPS), a charity dedicated to helping the families of police officers who have lost their lives while on duty. The challenge involves climbing to the top of one of the 214 Wainwright peaks and lighting a flare at 3am in honour of fallen officers.

The group of 29 police cadets and nine cadet leaders split into teams to tackle the peaks of Outerside, Barrow and Stile End on Friday night (17 June) and into the early hours of Saturday morning.

Leicestershire Police was the only force to involve their cadets in the challenge this year and took more cadets than ever before.

Ruby and Sophie, both 14, from Hinckley and Loughborough police cadet units were among the climbers and said: *"We've had an excellent weekend. We have loved making new friends and facing new challenges and adventures. We really enjoyed the nighttime walk up to the peak to light the flares and seeing all the other peaks light up around us."*

The cadets stayed in a youth hostel nearby and managed to get some rest before beginning their ascent at 12:30am. After the flares were lit at 3am, the teams walked back down and enjoyed breath-taking views of the sunrise over the national park.



Cadet Leader DC Anthony Jones took a leading role in organising the cadet's involvement. *"I am so proud that Team Leicestershire were the only force in the UK to take police cadets to the Light the Lakes challenge"* he said, *"after months of planning it has been so rewarding to see the young people get such a brilliant lasting memory."*



On Saturday afternoon the cadets headed to Brathay Hall in Ambleside where they met with others from Leicestershire Police who had completed the challenge, before heading back to the hostel for an evening of quizzes and board games.

Sergeant Charlotte Dickens from the Volunteers in Policing team accompanied the cadets and said: *"For us to have the support from the force to allow us to provide this unique opportunity to our young people is truly remarkable. This weekend I've seen first-hand how the cadets build friendship groups, push themselves out of their comfort zone and complete personal challenges which they didn't think they could do. All cadets were a credit to Leicestershire Police throughout the weekend."*

The trip ended with a group walk to Aira Force waterfall on Sunday morning before heading back to force headquarters.

Police cadet Abbie added: *“We’ve had an amazing weekend, not only doing the Light the Lakes challenge but all of the other things as well. I think it’s safe to say we’ve all eaten too much and we’re losing our voices!”*

“Seeing everyone come together to remember all the officers who lost their lives to protect us was so lovely, they and all who took part are truly inspirational. We have all made some amazing friends and memories and had a great laugh.”



Lancashire Cadets get to grips with nature

Pendle cadet unit have been working hard doing at Lomeshaye marshes. here are some before and after pictures of the work they have been doing



Staffordshire Cadets assist at charity races



On Saturday 21st May cadets from Staffordshire Police Cadets attended the Pretty Muddy Race for live event for Cancer Research.

Cadets helped out by completing different duties like handing out medals to participants who completed the race, starting the race, litter picking and handing out water.

The staff at Pretty Muddy event was really impressed with all the cadet's hard work.

Plymouth and Ivybridge Police Cadets help in Plymouth to marshall the event and cheering on the runners



West Midlands cadets got involved too –



Cadets keeping their eyes peeled.



Cadets from West Mercia took part in a search exercise for a missing person. Cadets learned how to carry out an organised search of an open area, finally locating a casualty and extracting them to safety.

Cadets searched across fields, woodlands and found the casualty on a field boundary.

A great learning experience for cadets in the beautiful surrounds of West Mercia Police HQ



As part of the National Op Sceptre week in May, Portsmouth South VPC unit worked with the local Neighbourhood Policing Team to conduct a knife sweep. 2 knives were located hidden in a city centre park and seized.



Cadet Collins is pictured with the knife that she found.

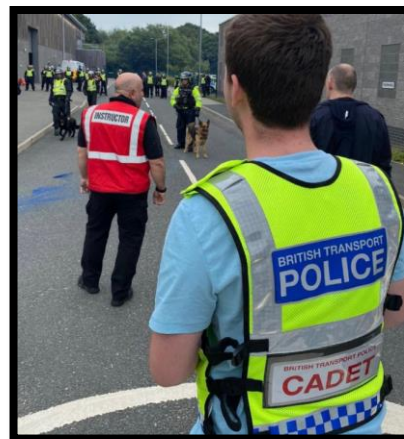
Suffolk Cadets celebrate diversity

Cadets from Suffolk Police Stowmarket Cadet Unit had a great time at Suffolk Pride celebrating diversity in their communities



British Transport Police Cadets get rowdy

BTP York Cadets had a chance to experience the sights and sounds of Public Order at West Yorkshire Police Training site when BTP officers attended their annual public order training refresher



One of cadets also got the rare chance to throw items at his dad and watch a petrol bomb be thrown at him – Happy Father's Day!



Have you got a story for us?

**We want to highlight the great work done by Cadets & Leaders across all VPC schemes.
Many of our stories are taken from social media but if you have specific one to share
let us know by emailing: vpc.admin@vpc.police.uk
(We endeavor to include as many articles as we can)**