

# National VPC Newsletter

February 2024



Welcome to the first 2024 edition of the National VPC Newsletter highlighting the activities & achievements of VPC Units, Cadets & Leaders across the Police Forces of England & Wales. We try to include as many stories as possible from across different VPC schemes.

*National VPC*



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



# Lincolnshire Cadets had a busy end to 2023



In December, the Skegness cadets (left) successfully defended their bowling title against the local army cadets. A great evening with bowling, food, and fun was organised by the local cadet leaders to celebrate Christmas and completing the term.

After some friendly competition and lots of great bowling by all, the Skegness Police Cadets came out on top and celebrated retaining the trophy for another year. Thank you to our wonderful cadets and the cadet leaders that work hard to represent and support Lincolnshire Police.

Also looking to bowl each other over were the Boston Cadets (right), who celebrated Christmas with a ten-pin bowling night.



Lincoln cadets and leaders supported the Lincolnshire Police Carol Concert in December at Lincoln Cathedral (above). They did a brilliant job of setting up, checking tickets, and escorting guests for a fantastic evening of hymns, readings, and music in a beautiful setting. Cadets helped collect charity donations, with guests raising over £1000 for COPS (Care of Police Survivors) charity.

The Chief Constable sent a letter of thanks to the cadets saying *'the cadets were extremely smart, efficient, and professional. They worked very hard with a cheerful and professional disposition and were a great help. It was a pleasure to have them at the event.'*

Grantham cadets (below) helped the mayor's office with the Christmas Biker's Run, in late November. Over 300 bikers attended to deliver a gift for a child in need, with cadets supporting the organisation of the event and helping their local community.





Cadets across the county celebrated completing their induction period with an attestation event on November 22nd. Parents and families were invited to see the cadets in full uniform receiving a certificate, and to join us in celebrating the cadet's achievements so far.

*(Pictures show cadets from Lincoln, Boston & Skegness and Grantham)*



Cadet leaders have worked hard to deliver interesting and interactive sessions over the last term that educate cadets on a variety of policing topics. They've also given their time to attend local policing events to aid cadets in supporting their local communities.

# Northamptonshire Cadets go all out for charity



All are extremely proud of the unit and are grateful not only to the cadets for spending time to collect, but friends and family who donated.

Towcester Cadet Unit in Northamptonshire collected nearly 900 items of clothing, toiletries and treats for children residing in local authority care placements. The 18 active cadets in the unit were given two weeks to collect items (with the Unit and Programme leaders only expecting them to fill 5 small rucksacks) and absolutely blew us out of the water with their collection (pictured below).



# Cadets in Cambridgeshire practice their gift wrapping skills



Huntingdon VPC helped at a charity just before Christmas wrapping presents which were going out with Christmas food hampers to families and children across the area. They also spent time in the warehouse sorting food items and preparing the hampers.



Kind-hearted Kirklees police cadets shelved their weekends plans for those in need, raising over £800 through charity work in supermarkets.

The Cadets raised £450 in a marathon five-hour stint of bag packing at the Huddersfield Morrison's and another £400 at the Dewsbury branch of Asda



On both days all the money was spent in store on food for local foodbanks. Recipients were the Welcome Centre in Huddersfield, and Bramwell's CIC Foodbank in Dewsbury. Cadets shopped for the items themselves and delivered the goods to the foodbanks, helping to unload and even stack the shelves.

PC Sally Baines, Cadet leader said: "Police Cadets learn about the different roles within the police and get involved in projects to help their local communities. On this occasion, they decided they wanted to raise funds for local foodbanks and do this by bag packing."

# West Yorkshire Cadets raise hundreds for food bank



*"They all worked really hard and the customers at both stores were so generous both with their spare change, and their time, with lots of people chatting with them and asking about the cadet programme. Raising £850 to help people in their local area is fantastic, especially at this time of year when some families may be really struggling,"*



# Trailblazer Cadets in Durham



Durham Cadets supported the Forces, Operation Trailblazer which targets hot-spot areas identified by the Home Office as having high levels of Anti-Social Behaviour.

The cadets were in Darlington dropping leaflets to residents to increase the awareness and how to report incidents.



The objectives of Operation Trailblazer are -

- An increased police and other uniformed presence to reduce anti-social behaviour, targeting hotspots.
- Additional patrols or other presence in a specific area at specific times when ASB is most prevalent.
- Building a lasting local community confidence in the response of the statutory organisations to ASB, using trusted advocates who can be a direct link between the communities and the statutory organisations.



Senior Cadets from South Durham also delivered an Action Fraud presentation to members of the public, highlighting dangers of scammers and fraud, this followed 3 weeks of work by the Cadets alongside the Economic Crime Team.





## West Midlands Cadets also help tackle ASB

# OPERATION ADVANCE

We're tackling  
neighbourhood crime  
and local issues



Cadets from Solihull supported West Midlands Police Officers with Operation Advance, conducting high visibility patrols to try and reduce anti-social behaviour in the local area.

Operation Advance is a force wide initiative which runs across the West Midlands Police area throughout the year. Where staff and officers from every policing department both locally and from a force level work together to deliver 24 hours of intensive policing operations.



Also in the West Midlands - Chief Superintendent Mark Payne and a panel of judges faced the tremendous task of choosing the winners and runners up from over 400 nominations, for the WMP Excellence Awards, and we are proud to announce that Cadet Matloob from 1BE won Cadet of the Year, with Cadet Rich from 1SH and 1DC coming runner up. Cadet Leader Gahir from Birmingham also came runner up for an award! – Congratulations to all!!



## Community engagement in Sussex

As the cost-of-living crisis continues to put pressure on low-income households, many are unaware of the programme and their children's eligibility to access free activity groups during the school holidays.

The Family Fun Day was an event at which local organisations were able to showcase their activity to families who are eligible for the HAF programme.



Crawley Police Cadets had a lovely day engaging with young people and their families at a Family Fun Day.

The day was organised by UK Harvest who were commissioned by West Sussex County Council to organise and host an event in Crawley, to promote the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme to eligible recipient families across the borough.

The event was attended by approximately 1,000 people, including over 30 children. Crawley Police Cadets enjoyed the day engaged with Young People showing them how to take fingerprints, trying on different Police equipment and clothing, showing them around Police vehicles as well as being able to talk with parents around crime prevention advice and promoting positive activities for young people as well as helping to building strong positive relationships between the Police and the Community.

## Nottinghamshire Cadets assist at Emergency Services carol service

Back in December, Police Cadets took part in the Nottinghamshire Joint Emergency Services Carol Service at Southwell Minster, with Nottinghamshire Police joined by Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service and East Midlands Ambulance Service.

Throughout the evening, the Police Cadets assisted with collections during the service, and one of the Cadets helped with the readings and prayers.

The Carol service was also attended by the High Sheriff and her two High Sheriff Police Cadets.



Gwent Police NxtGen Team, joined up with Animals Interactive to assist in 7 separate sessions as an activity and volunteering session during the February Half term.

## Gwent make furry friends



They have developed a fantastic rapport with the owners of Animals Interactive. They have a very small group of volunteers who run their shows in a variety of settings, including Care Homes, Schools, OAP complexes, Colleges, Prisons and run their Half Term Provisions too. A number of exotic animals are brought along for children and parents to touch, feel, cuddle and feed with Animals Interactive staff and volunteers running the sessions with groups of up to 30 children at any one time.

7 sessions that were arranged were held at 2 different venues, one being Pontymoile Community Centre in Pontypool, and the other Cwmbran Stadium. 2 Cadets supported the Team by handing out the animals, interacting with children and parents, along with conquering their own fears at the same time.

Leaders were extremely impressed with the attitude shown by the Cadets, especially when they discovered the task at hand on arrival at the venue. Each one of them could have backed down, and said no thank you, however they all pushed themselves out of their comfort zone to help run an amazing event, which will remain in their memories for a long time.



Gwent leaders would like to congratulate each and everyone one of their Cadets who attended, as they showed great resolve, positive mental attitude and most of all kindness, patience and tenacity during each of their sessions too!



Well done to Alisha, Tobias, Annabelle, Cerys L, Abi, Alex, Kalyn, Miley, Cerys S, Ieuan, Kadie, Caden & Iolo for their amazing support!





# The National Trust is looking for big ideas



## Time & Space Award

### Calling all 16–25-year-olds who think big

The **National Trust** has just launched the **Time + Space Award**, a chance for four young people to get the time, space, support and inspiration they've been looking for to unlock their big ideas.

The award is inspired by Isaac Newton's 'year of wonders,' which happened when he was just 23. A pandemic forced him to spend the year at his home, Woolsthorpe Manor, and he used the time and space available to him to make world-changing discoveries. Newton's famous apple tree still stands at Woolsthorpe and the National Trust wants to invite the big thinkers of today to come and find their own inspiration in tackling today's challenges.

**Entries are open now** to anyone **aged 16–25** and **close on 30 April 2024**. Each award is **worth up to the equivalent of £5,000** and includes **a package of mentoring, expert support, time at Woolsthorpe Manor, resources, expenses and more** to help the winners bring their big idea to life.

For a chance to win, all you need to do is answer one question in your field of choice – nature & climate, arts & culture, science, or society – via the [entry form here](#).

If you submit a valid application for the Time + Space Award, you'll get a **free National Trust day pass for two visitors** to use at any of the participating places the National Trust looks after.

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Entries will be judged by an expert panel including Professor **David Olusoga** (Historian and Broadcaster), Dame Dr **Maggie Aderin-Pocock** (British space scientist), **Megan McCubbin** (Zoologist, Wildlife TV presenter & Science Communicator), and **Tayshan Hayden-Smith** (TV presenter, Social & environmental activist). All the judges are pictured below.

The four winners will be announced in July 2024.

Your idea doesn't have to be fully formed, that's what the award is there to help with but if you believe your idea has potential, please apply.

For more information visit [nationaltrust.org.uk/time-and-space](https://nationaltrust.org.uk/time-and-space)



The 4 competition judges

# City of London & Hertfordshire Cadets get together



In February City of London VPC with partners from Hertfordshire VPCs ran a full cadet exercise at The Citadel in Kent.



Cadets in public order kit undertook a range of exercises and team events, in a very iconic old castle location!

Instructors put them through their paces with challenges including first aid scenarios, impact of colour run dyes and powers interrupting leadership skills and practising public order tactics and techniques.

Cadets had a brilliant time and worked so hard throughout the whole weekend.



The event was organised by Pc Liam Masterson who is the VPC coordinator for the City of London VPC scheme.

He said, "Massive thanks to Tony from Hertfordshire Police Roads Policing Unit and Cadet Leader who drove our cadets down on the day and waited an extra 3 hours after to help get them all back with City staff. Took him an extra 4 hours to get home on that day after what was a very long weekend.

Also the Citadel is an old prison site that is now rented out privately for things so had a real feel about it.



# Northumbria Cadets get out & about

Cadets from North Tyneside and Northumberland units were out in force for to support the organisers of the Newcastle 10K.

The run stretches the length of the Quayside in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Cadets braved an early start and awful weather conditions to service water stations along the course.

Well done team!



Sunderland Cadets took part in a night of action in relation to motorcycle disorder within the Peshaw and Shiney Row areas of Houghton Le Spring.

Cadets have been out engaging with communities, local residents, local businesses and Sunderland City Council.

The cadets took part in a letter drop to residents in area's hot spots for motorcycle disorder, leading to an increase in intelligence coming into the team and which has led to the seizures of motorcycles in the area.

The cadets were accompanied by PC Lewis Jamieson from the OP CAPIO team, Sunderland Cadet Leader and PCSO Kirstie Cooke also from the Operation CAPIO team and Sunderland Assistant Cadet Leader.





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