

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.

The National VPC team has undergone a restructure and as of the 1st April the focus is now on Safeguarding & Standards. The launch of our new 'Safe to Operate' standards in March marked a significant move forward in ensuring VPC schemes are a safe environment for both Cadets and Leaders and brings the scheme in line with other youth organisations.

The Safe to Operate standards have been adopted by the National Police Chiefs Council as the minimum standards VPC schemes should be meeting. Over the next few months, the National team will be working with police forces to assist them in doing so.

We would like to say a big thank you to Ed Sherry OBE, who stood down

as the Strategic Director of the National VPC Hub at the end of March. His dedication and enthusiasm for the VPC has got us to where we are and, in addition, Nick Healey our Operations Director will be leaving us in June to re-join policing as an Operational Sgt. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours

National VPC



FIND US ON...





National VPC 'Safe to Operate' standards launched

Volunteer Police Cadet (VPC) schemes are unique to each police force and programs can depend on the priorities, demographics and geography of the force and its area.

However, what is a common thread throughout all schemes is the need to ensure that VPC schemes operate safely and over the last 18 months the National VPC team has been working with police forces to introduce a set of minimum standards that all schemes can align themselves to that are evidence based and specific to the youth sector and delivery of a regulated youth provision.

The Safe to Operate standards have been agreed by the National Police Chiefs Council, and the National VPC Safeguarding & Standards Hub will support forces in implementing the standards going forward.

Once implemented the standards will form the basis for schemes to remain safe to operate and provide Cadets and Leaders with support and guidance to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

The National VPC team would like to thank all those involved in bringing these standards to life, especially those subject matter experts from outside policing, whose advice and guidance has been invaluable in ensuring that the standards are acceptable, feasible and sustainable.

The Safe to Operate standards are accessible to all and can be found on the National VPC website, click on the picture to view them now.



Leicestershire honour the Duke of Edinburgh & celebrate their Cadets

Leicestershire Police have planted a 'Duke of Edinburgh' rose to celebrate its police cadets who are working towards the Duke of Edinburgh (D of E) award and to honour His Royal Highness Prince Philip and his service to the country.

The double-flowered rose was planted in the force's memorial garden by Chief Constable Simon Cole and Police and Crime Commissioner Rupert Matthews on Monday 7 March with the force's D of E cadet leaders also in attendance.



Chief Constable Simon Cole said: "I'm thrilled that we've got over 100 of our cadets doing the Duke of Edinburgh award this year. It's a really important award which is about teamwork and working together to make communities better and stronger, and with a bit of outward-bound adventure as well. This rose is to acknowledge that hard work and of course to acknowledge the Duke's life of service to the country."



Police and Crime Commissioner Rupert Matthews added: "It was a great honour to plant the Duke of Edinburgh rose alongside the Chief Constable, both to commemorate His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, but also to recognise the achievements of the police cadets who are completing their D of E awards this year and in previous years, demonstrating their commitment to society, policing and their communities."

Leicestershire Police has been licensed to run the Duke of Edinburgh programme since 2016 and has supported a total of 178 police cadets to complete the award so far.

The cadets have been on expeditions all across the United Kingdom, including the Peak District, Lake District, Snowdonia and the Brecon Beacons.

DC Anthony Jones has been instrumental in the set up and the continual running of the D of E programme for the police cadets. He said:

"D of E is a huge part of Leicestershire Police's cadet programme and we're really proud to have more than 100 cadets doing their bronze, silver and gold awards this year."

"I just want to say a huge thank you to the whole D of E leader team. Without them we wouldn't be able to deliver such a successful programme, and also thank you to all the young people for volunteering their time to get involved in the award."







International Women's Day

Cadets celebrate International Women's Day 2022

Police Cadets supported the City of London Police Commissioner at an event at the Guildhall, London.



Leicestershire Police celebrated all their female volunteers including Cadets and Cadet Leaders.





Bedfordshire Police celebrated Cadet Chanelle who is a 3rd Year cadet and who has earned the rank of High Sherriff Cadet

Female Cadets in the Metropolitan Police took part in an online event discussing their safety concerns with the Chair of the MPS Network for Women




Lancashire Cadets celebrated all the amazing Women in their lives. Including a presentation from their Cadet Leader and DC Vicki, about Woman in Policing through the ages.



Do not pass go....

West Mercia Police Dogs have been recognised in a new monopoly board designed by two children.

The board was the brainchild of Liam and Ryan Barnes, aged 13 and 10 respectively. Liam being a Cadet with West Mercia VPC.



The boys wanted to celebrate the important role of police dogs up and down the country. Together they decorated their own monopoly board with sticky notes, including police dogs from different forces across England.

They then gave all the details to an artist, who goes by the name Noisy, 27, who has brought their vision to life.



They said: "She came to me with this request to help her and her boys to make their dream a reality and it was a real honour to have been asked to work on such a unique idea.

"Currently the project is in the prototype stage, there's still a lot of work ahead, and as it's an ongoing project I can't say too much but the design is coming together really well."

They added: *"The Police do so much for us as a community and the Police Dogs are a vital part of that, I think it's a fantastic way to shine a positive light on them and show them some much deserved appreciation. Once we have the board complete and ready for manufacture, we will be giving a percentage of the proceeds to the Police Dog units as a further thank you to them for all the amazing work they do."*

Mother Natalie Cawdell said: *"It was actually my boys who came up with the idea. They would love to get it made and sell it so they are able to give something back to police dogs as they give their lives to protect ours."*



VPC Barclays Digital Eagles partnership soars

Barclays Digital Eagles have been working closely with the VPC to support the cadets across the UK with their training.

The topics covered are in line with the VPC Cadet journey and covers a wide range of skills that can benefit both cadets and the community they serve.

The program is delivered over a 4-week period:

- **Week 1** – Cyber security: fraud and scams – An interactive presentation exploring the latest in cyber-criminal activity and how to stay vigilant online.
- **Week 2** – Digital Wings (Barclays online learning platform) training sessions. Self-learning with modules in line with the VPC, covering topics such as social networking, motivating others, and much more.
- **Week 3** – Vulnerability case studies. Groups of cadets will discuss specific case studies based on people in vulnerable situations, exploring how they can be best supported.
- **Week 4** – These sessions shall be broken into two parts:
 1. Learning how to become a confident presenter, whether virtual or face to face. A short presentation on how to plan, prepare, and build confidence in presenting.
 2. Following on from our session during week 1 on the negative impacts to our digital footprint, we'll now discuss how our actions can instead create a positive online profile and presence.

As well as the above activities, Cadets will be introduced to Barclays branch managers within their area that they can work with to support your local community in fraud and scam awareness, as well as supporting vulnerable groups.

So far Barclays have supported 19 forces across the UK with their Digital Upskill program, with the aim of reaching more police forces in the near future.

Here are a few testimonials from Cadets and VPC leads about the program.

“The cadets found the online sessions really informative and particularly enjoyed the interactive videos where they scanned QR codes. I found the league table created a competitive vibe with a few people.” – **Diane Baldwin – Lancashire Cadet lead**

“I’ve gained a lot of new knowledge from it, and we covered a lot of different topics. The Digital Eagles team put a huge amount of effort into making the experience really fun, which I’m thankful for too. The most useful thing I learned was that expanding on your digital knowledge applies to everyone, of every age, and you can always learn something new to help you.” - **Isabel – Leicestershire Cadets**

“Asif delivered the program in a calm, concise and clear manner remaining in control of the sessions throughout. He displayed an awareness of the aspects of the program that might initially seem boring or mundane, but by using accessible language and instruction he was able to convey the information in a meaningful manner thereby maintaining the cadets’ interest in the subject or topic. On a personal note, I would just like to say that Asif was so accommodating to work with to deliver the program – no request was too much, and he even provided a Leaders’ Training session to help adults prepare for the program. Thanks very much Asif and I look forward to working with you in the future.” - **Sue Westlake – Dyfed-Powys Cadet Lead**

“Can I just take a moment of your time to thank you for providing the Cardigan VPC (and others) with such an engaging, informative, and educational virtual Digital Eagles sessions, over the past few weeks. I’m certain that every single one of the audiences went away after every session, having learnt something new. From a crime prevention perspective, I have no doubt that your inputs will go a long way into educating your audience members to become more informed and aware, which will in turn reduce the number of victims falling to the numerous cyber/financial crimes. Such was the quality and effectiveness of your presentations; I would like to explore the possibility of reaching a far wider audience and co-delivering similar sessions to other local community groups and clubs.” – **Steffan Jones – Cardigan VPC**

Is your VPC scheme interested in having this program delivered to your cadets as part of their Social Action? Or want to know more?

If so, please contact – **Asif Mussa @ Barclays** - Asif.mussa@barclays.com

History playing a part in the present



Congratulations! to all the Cadet Units in England who have taken part in the “Heritage Challenge” project over the last two years.

The project team would like to thank the leaders and cadets who not only rose to the challenge of addressing ‘heritage crime’ through social action community projects, but also the challenge of coping with the covid restrictions by innovating and adapting.

The initiative was funded and supported by Historic England, with additional support from the War Memorial Trust and Heritage Watch. 16 VPC units, from 20 Forces were involved with 443 cadets undertaking online training, using new resources via the Marshall Volunteer Portal.

All the units and cadets who went on to complete social action projects received a certificate of achievement signed by the National Police Chief Council lead for Heritage Crime, Assistant Chief Constable Rachael Nolan of Essex Police, for their work, ranging from church-theft crime prevention

to updating condition reports of local war memorials.



Blackpool and Fylde Cadets in the classroom

Case Studies and a Good Practice guide will feature in updated training materials on the Marshall Volunteer Platform in the coming weeks. These will be joined by a copy of the final evaluation report which is being compiled by the Institute of Public Safety, Crime and Justice.

Next Steps, Historic England will be exploring the feasibility of similar projects being developed with other youth organisations through the Youth United Foundation (of uniformed groups which includes VPC). This will include input from a Youth Panel and the evaluation of VPCs experience.



Dover Cadets (at the cliffs)



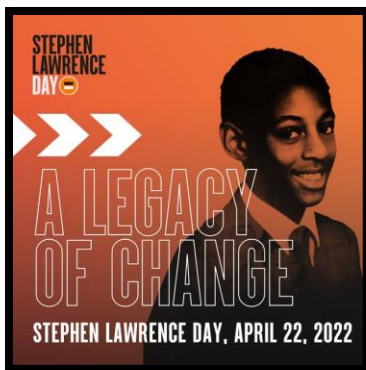
Wealden Cadets Tweet

If any Units would like to keep in touch or register an interest in sharing good practice, or exploring collaboration, particularly from their cadet’s point of view – please get in touch with JamesCathcart@youngvoicesheard.org.uk

Mini Police give royal welcome



In March, Mini Police greet HRH Duke of Wessex at the opening of Merseyside Police HQ alongside Chief Constable Serena Kenned and PCC Emily Spurrell



Stephen Lawrence Day 2022

April 22nd saw this years Stephen Lawrence Day, an opportunity for young people to have their voices heard on the changes they want to see in their communities, reflecting kindness, fairness and respect.

The National VPC joined with London City Police, the Home Office, Princes Trust & Fire Cadets to do just that.



Elsewhere, Cadets from West Midlands were supported by the Lye Neighbored Team at an inspirational day hosted by West Midlands Black & Asian Police Association



And Cadets from Gwent put together a short video which was published on social media in the hope that it inspires our next generation, as we remember the past and look towards the future, which can be viewed [HERE](#)

Leicestershire Cadets get defensive

Thames Valley’s Bracknell and Wokingham Cadets kicked off a new term by learning some very effective self defence moves using Jujitsu, known as the ‘gentle art’.

The cadets were lucky to have senior instructor Ian Gauldie, from the Combat Academy who is a former W.U.M.A World Self Defence Champion come to teach them the Martial Art for a two-hour session. Also giving demonstrations and guidance to cadets during the evening were four of Ian’s students who had been training in the art for up to nine years. The cadets learned how to block attacks and manoeuvre a person to the ground



using technique rather than force, showing that even the smallest person is capable of defending themselves.

The evening concluded with first aid CPR and AED instruction which is another vital tool learned by all Bracknell and Wokingham cadets.

A real gripping start to the new term!

Norfolk welcome new recruits

Great Yarmouth VPC welcomed new recruits in March and they were straight into some team building.



West Midlands tackle climate change

Chorley & South Ribble Police Cadets who attended a Special Biodiversity Event Gardening for the Environment (can we tackle climate change?) on Saturday 19 March 2022.

The event was organised by Chorley in Bloom and opened by the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle with speakers from the Royal Horticultural Society.

The Cadets spoke to the various community groups that attended, look for future volunteering opportunities and raised the profile of their Cadet group.





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)**