

# National VPC Newsletter

**April 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](mailto:vpc.admin@vpc.police.uk)



# Staffordshire celebrate 10 years of Volunteer Police Cadets.



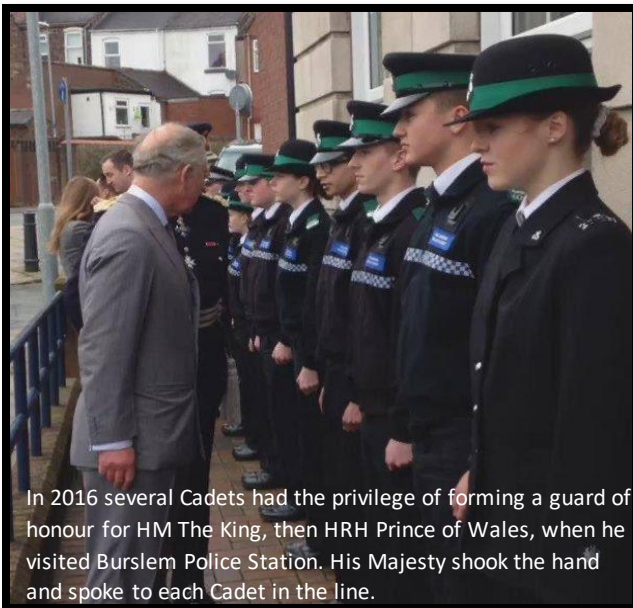
The Staffordshire VPC scheme was launched in 2013 and is celebrating its tenth anniversary, with 7,500 cadets having passed through the ranks in that time.

As with all VPC schemes, it has also allowed cadets to learn team-building skills, gain experience of working in different police sectors, attend weekly cadet meetings, participate in community and fundraising events, complete training drills and promote crime prevention initiatives.



Chris Noble, Chief Constable at Staffordshire Police, said: "The cadet programme has continued to grow year-by-year and the scheme is all about helping to develop great citizens for Staffordshire now and in the future. We've seen youngsters over the last ten years, from all backgrounds, who have grown in confidence immeasurably and play supportive roles at major events. This is what being in the cadets is all about – making a difference, helping the community, growing self-confidence and discipline.

It's been humbling to see so many cadets come through the ranks in the last ten years and wanting to make a difference in their communities."



In 2016 several Cadets had the privilege of forming a guard of honour for HM The King, then HRH Prince of Wales, when he visited Burslem Police Station. His Majesty shook the hand and spoke to each Cadet in the line.

Jake Pateman, Head Cadet at Staffordshire Police, said: "I've always had dreams of being a police officer and joined the cadet programme in July 2018. Immediately, I felt like I was part of a family.

I started out as a Cadet, then went onto become Deputy Section Leader, Section Leader and then Head Cadet. In my role as Cadet, I was also a mentor helping out new cadets and guiding them through their time at cadets from day one.

I'm very proud to be to have been part of such a fantastic organisation, where I've learnt key valuable skills such as: leadership, communication, time and teamwork skills."

Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime, Ben Adams said: "Ten years ago the Staffordshire Police Cadet scheme was created and funded by the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office to strengthen links between the police and young people and to help them learn leadership skills, gain confidence, and promote good citizenship.

After recently meeting the Stafford and Cannock units I can certainly see the impact the cadets are making on their communities as well as the impact the scheme is making on the cadets themselves.

The cadet scheme is a wonderful way of engaging with our local young people, especially those who are from challenging backgrounds. I am proud to see how the Staffordshire Cadet programme has encouraged other forces to adopt a similar approach with benefits being seen across the country. I look forward to seeing what is in store for them in the future."



# Police Forces' recognise their Cadets' commitment



Back in January, Leicestershire Police held their first ever Cadets Award evening at Police Headquarters.

The event was an opportunity to say thank you for the numerous hours that the cadets have volunteered to the force over the last 12 months.



The evening began with an informal meet and greet, with Chief Constable Rob Nixon, Chief Superintendent Adam Slonecki, Superintendent Emma Maxwell and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Rani Mahal welcoming the cadets and their families.

Mr Slonecki opened the event which then saw CC Nixon present certificates to Cadets for their part in Op Adventurer. Op Adventurer consisted of three residential trips- "Light the Lakes" in June, an exciting trip to Krefeld in Germany in August and finally a residential trip to Redridge in Wales also in August.



It was then over to Sam Rouse, from the Duke of Edinburgh Awards (D of E) who handed out over 35 awards to Cadets for completing their bronze or silver D of E awards.

Following on from Sam, Mr Slonecki awarded some of the cadets with certificates for completing their CVQO (Cadet Vocational Qualifications Organisation) qualifications- presented by Steve Mills from CVQO and CC Nixon.

Mr Slonecki commended all the forces Cadet Leaders for their hard work and dedication throughout the cadet curriculum and paid special thanks to the unit leaders for their part in Op Adventurer, awarding them with Chief Superintendent awards.

Finally, the Volunteers in Policing (ViP) team were thanked for their continued hard work and ongoing commitment and were also awarded Chief Superintendent awards.

Ch Supt Slonecki said:

"The cadet programme is a great way for young people to gain qualifications, new experiences, make new friends and improve their confidence!"



"This award ceremony allowed us to say thank you to not only the cadets themselves, but also to our fantastic cadet leaders who give up their free time to give these young people such unique opportunities as well as the team who work so hard in the background to make sure everything is organised and runs as well as it does."

In March Merseyside Police held a final ceremony for the Cadets who had completed their VPC programme over the last 18 months.



The Chief Constable, other senior officers, The High Sheriff, PCC, the National Association of Retired Police Officers (NARPO) and other dignitaries were all in attendance for a fabulous evening where the work and dedication the cadets had shown through their course was highlighted and awards presented.



Whilst saying goodbye to the Cadets who had completed programme – In April the force welcomed their new Cadets for 2023/24.

All meeting at Force Headquarters. Many brilliant and exciting opportunities await them to experience and to help them develop over their journey with Merseyside Police.



# National CrimeBeat Awards Update



In our last newsletter we highlighted VPC schemes that had entered the National CrimeBeat awards 2023. With Derbyshire and Northumbria gaining commendations.

Whilst Lancashire Police, Nelson & Colne police cadet unit were invited to the Awards Ceremony at the Royal National Hotel in London, which took place in March, where they presented their project “- By Young People 4 Young People”.

Members from Derbyshire’s’ Citizens in Policing (CiP) team and a few of their cadets received the commendations from the High Sheriff of Derbyshire, receiving two certificates in admiration of the valuable service our young crime fighters have given to Derbyshire.

Achieving these awards would not be possible without the huge support from our Safer Neighbourhood Teams, PCSOs, operational support, rural crime, cybercrime and many of our +volunteers. It really is a huge holistic team effort, and everyone involved has earned this recognition.



Two Northumbria cadets received a High Sheriff's Association Award for their efforts to combat and reduce anti-social behaviour.

Brandon and Daniel, aged 16 and 17, (pictured left) are two of the Force's trained cadets who assisted front-line officers with Operation Hayness, which aimed to combat youth disorder in North Tyneside.

they teamed up with officers and North Tyneside Council's trading standards team to carry out test purchases at a range of local off-licenses and shops.

The volunteers entered each shop and attempted to buy alcohol – to make sure stores across the region were making adequate checks and not selling alcohol to children.

During the operation, the volunteers were denied service by five premises in North Tyneside but were able to leave three stores with alcohol.

Thanks to the efforts of the Cadets, in collaboration with the officers and partner agencies, three shops were issued with fixed penalty notices and now risk losing their licence to sell alcohol due to their illegal actions.

A further positive result from this exercise was the ripple effect which it had on other businesses selling alcohol with local intelligence confirming that there was a reduction in the area of alcohol-based youth anti-social



# NATIONAL CRIMEBEAT



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

Meanwhile.... Lancashire did indeed attend the awards in London...and **WON** !! with their Cadet initiative “-By Young People 4 Young People” 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.

Congratulations to to all the unit and their supporters , you did Lancashire Constabulary proud.

They had stiff competition from five other groups from across England and Wales with equally deserving projects .

It was described as a very humbling day , listening and watching young people deliver their presentations on how they have made a difference to their communities that they live in with their innovative and successful crime prevention projects.

After the awards all the finalists and their supporters were treated to a sightseeing trip of London and a trip on the London eye, which was enjoyed massively by the cadets the Cadets and their supporters.

A huge thankyou to the outgoing High Sheriff of Lancashire, Mr Martin Ainscough for nominating and supporting the cadet’s initiative and the National CrimeBeat association, trustees, High Sheriffs, and sponsors team,



# Cadets selected to support West Midlands High Sheriff

West Midlands Police Cadets are proud and honoured to be selected to become High Sheriff Cadets and Cadet Ambassadors for Wade Lyn CBE DL CD, High Sheriff of the West Midlands.

This is an incredible opportunity to support an amazing office and help create meaningful social action including creating opportunities for as many young people from unrepresented communities as possible.

On Saturday 11th February 2023, 8 successful Cadets and Leaders were interviewed and selected to become the High Sheriff Cadets and Ambassadors. The successful Cadets would be invited to civic events, carol services and as well as other community engagements.



"His passion and enthusiasm will inspire young people and encourage them to make positive changes to make our communities a better and safer place for everyone."

The High Sheriff said: "I'm looking forward to working alongside the cadets throughout my shrieval year."

"They've already had some fantastic ideas about upcoming events and I'm excited to see them come to life"



The team came together to get to know one another and also to look at the role of the High Sheriff Cadet and discuss how they as High Sheriff Cadets would help to promote the role of the High Sheriff.

We were then formally invited to support and be the welcoming committee for the installation as High Sheriff of the West Midlands on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at The Queen Elizabeth II Law Courts followed by the reception at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Liz Curran, cadet youth engagement officer, said: "We're incredibly excited to be provided this opportunity for West Midlands Cadets and delighted for the High Sheriff's appointment."





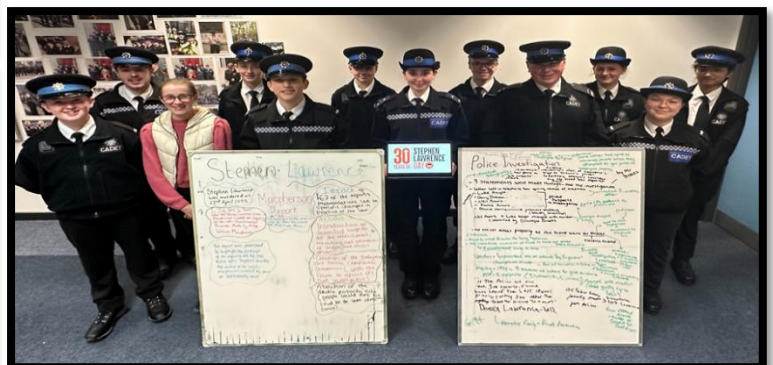
On Stephen Lawrence Day 22 April 2023, Volunteer Police Cadets and UK Fire Cadets proudly stood together to support Baroness Lawrence, family, and guests at the 30th memorial service for Stephen, held at St Martins in the Fields Church, central London.

In partnership with the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation, City of London VPC and London Fire Brigade Cadets from Greenwich welcomed guests, supported those attending and stood up to positively represent young people.



Cadets from across the UK joined together to share their hopes, aspirations, and personal goals to live their best lives, including Cadets from Dorset, Hertfordshire and Greenwich who shared their pledge cards together. The Greenwich VPC team then visited Stephen’s memorial stone in Well Hall Road, Eltham, where they cleaned up the area, laid flowers and displayed their combined pledge cards to make their voices heard.

Thank you to everyone who took part in these events and their projects over the next 12 months, supporting Stephen’s legacy.



Jess Neil, CEO said “On behalf of the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your ongoing partnership and dedication to honouring Stephen’s Legacy. We are truly grateful for your support over the years and are proud to work alongside you to make a positive difference in communities across the UK.”



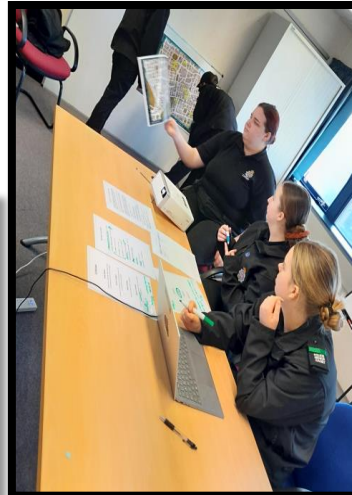


## Dorset Cadets pay a visit to Force HQ.



During February half term 20 Dorset Senior Cadets from across all 4 of their units were welcomed to Force HQ and what a great day and experience they had.

(After a full risk assessment) the Cadets were kitted out and allowed into the firing range to watch officers train, there was also a talk from the armed response team and a chance to see an Armed Response Vehicle (ARV)



In the afternoon the Cadets took part in a Police training Hydra (interactive scenario) session using skills to correctly identify the location of suspected terrorists.

Then the Cadets were off to see some role play which the Ops Training team put together to demonstrate how officers diffuse and apprehend when making an arrest depending of the levels of aggression they may be faced with.

The Cadets also got to see and lift, some of the kit officers have to be trained to use and carry.

Cadets also assisted at a Dorset Police Road Safe event, promoting, and raising awareness of Road safety to the public at a local shopping centre.

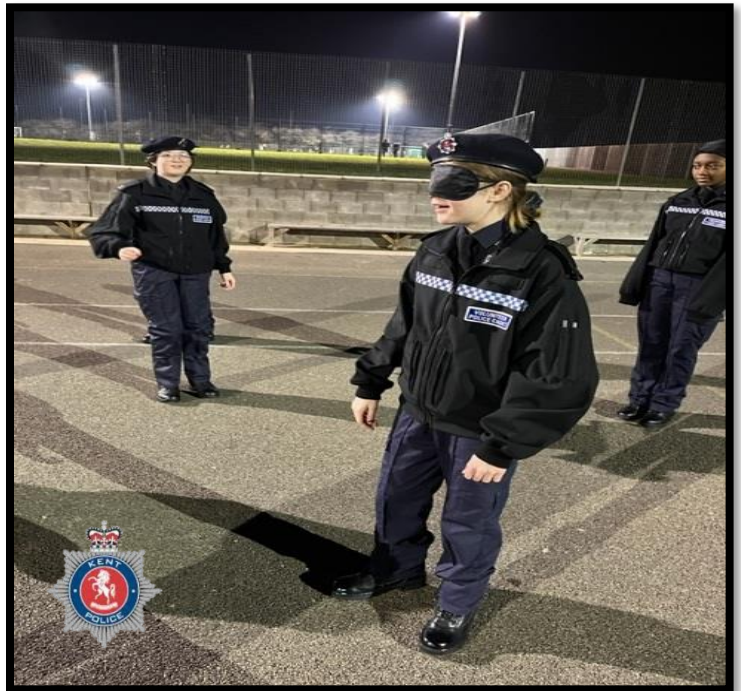


## Kent launch award scheme for younger Cadets

Kent Police have launched a pilot for the CVQO Lion Award for cadets aged 13 and 14 years old at their Dartford VPC Unit.

Up to 9 cadets will take part in several activities to help promote resilience, self-esteem, communication, problem solving skills and more.

The first session delivered was the Cat & Mouse game where one cadet was blind folded, whilst the other held a rattle ball. The "Mouse" cadet with the rattle ball had to take a step away from the "Cat" Cadet, then the Cat had to take a step towards the sound. This heightened the cadets' senses and took concentration to locate the Mouse. The remaining cadets stood in a circle to keep both cadets safe, but trying not to laugh at what they saw was very hard.



Staff Lindon-Taylor was the first to chuckle but also the first to cheer when the cat caught the mouse. Each cadet took turns and then at the end were asked a few reflective questions about what they had achieved, if they would change anything and what characteristics they felt they had utilised during the game.



The second game was the Gutterball Pass. Cadets were provided with 1m strips of guttering, a bucket was placed on the floor and a number of different balls were placed at the other end.

There was a tennis ball, golf ball, foam ball, pool ball and perforated ball. Cadets were given instructions to get one of the balls along the guttering and into the bucket. This may sound easy, and it was when they could link the guttering together, which they chose to do, but when this was changed i.e., they could no longer touch the guttering along the line and could not touch the ball, it became more of a challenge.

This clearly changed the dynamics of the group as some became more vocal with ideas to try, others felt more comfortable to follow the lead cadet. But throughout the game, each cadet was asked for their ideas so all their voices could be heard. The challenge was stepped up a gear by adding more balls to be rolled along the guttering. This was when the cadets were laughing and trying many different tactics. It was great to see everyone working together to achieve the end goal.

**The CVQO Lion Award** "promotes the development of 8-14 year olds through a varied and exciting programme of outdoor activities, first aid skills and social action projects. The programmes support young people's mental wellbeing, resilience and character, providing them with a safe environment to try something new and push themselves out of their comfort zone".

## Ex-Cadet honoured for role in Queens funeral



Alex Stuart, an ex-Volunteer Police Cadet from Lancashire has been honoured for his role in the Queen's funeral was also previously given a police award for rescuing a car crash victim whilst a Cadet.



The RVO is bestowed by the King - and not on the advice of the prime minister - and was founded by Queen Victoria in 1896. Alex, 19, was one of the young troops handpicked for the honour of pulling Her Majesty's coffin in front of thousands of spectators and a huge worldwide television audience.



Alex, from Blackpool, helped steer the gun carriage carrying the Queen's coffin during the monarch's historic funeral procession.

He is one of even servicemen from Lancashire to have been honoured for their roles in the Queen's funeral.

The men, who are all members of the Royal Navy, have been awarded the silver Royal Victorian Medal in the as part of a special set of Demise awards.

The RVM is a reward for personal service to the sovereign or the royal family and is the personal gift of the King. The servicemen to receive the medal were all part of the group who accompanied the State Field Gun Carriage during the funeral service on September 19, last year.

And it's not the first time Alex's has been honoured for his courage under pressure. In 2019, a 16-year-old Alex made the front page after he was praised for helping an elderly lady who was knocked down by a car in a St Annes hit and run.

Alex (on the left of the picture) and his friend then both Lancashire Police cadets – put their training to use and Alex began diverting traffic while they waited for paramedics to arrive. The pair were hailed as 'heroes' and were awarded a certificate of praise from police chiefs. “

Their actions were admirable, and they should be an inspiration to other young people,” said Insp Rob Conolly-Perch. “They are true heroes.”

Speaking at the time of the funeral, his sister Lucy, 21, who studies at UCLan in Preston, said: “The day after the news of the Queen sadly passing away, Alex was inspected at his base and was selected there and then to be one of the 100 naval troops to pull the coffin from in front.

Alex was then selected to be one of the six steerers - he was located right in front of the coffin during the parade yesterday and was televised to billions. We actually kept a tally of how many times Alex appeared on TV compared to the King and our Alex was on a lot more!

We are all so proud of him. “The list of those honoured also features RAF flight crew who transported the Queen's coffin from Scotland to London, coffin bearers, senior managers from the household and Government.

(Article taken from The Blackpool Gazette)

## Norfolk Cadets deal with Major incident

In March, 2 units from Norfolk's VPC took part in a joint training exercise at Norwich FC's ground Carrow Road. Involving Emergency Services and Norwich City Stewards and Health and Safety Officers, organised by Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service.



15 Cadets joined with Public Services Students in a drill that involved a Chemical Hazard and fire at Norwich City Football Club. By doing the exercise and having so many participants attend, each department found areas that they would change and improve in the event of a live incident.



## Thames Valley provide digital advice



The last few months has seen Cadets take the opportunity to engage with groups comprising of the elder generation.

Giving them instruction on how to use their mobile phone or tablets more efficiently.

This has not only been of great benefit to the recipients of the training but also helped to break down any misconceptions there may have been of the two generations.

The feedback on these sessions has been so positive that we are looking to increase this initiative in the future.





## West Mercia Cadets take flight...well almost...

In February Herefordshire cadets travelled to Almondsbury, Bristol to visit the National Police Air Service (NPAS) for an educational but fun day out.

Some bleary-eyed cadets were collected early morning and travelled to Bristol via McDonalds!

Dan Furneaux, Tactical Flight Officer was our host and gave the cadets a 20-minute presentation on the history of NPAS and what it does.



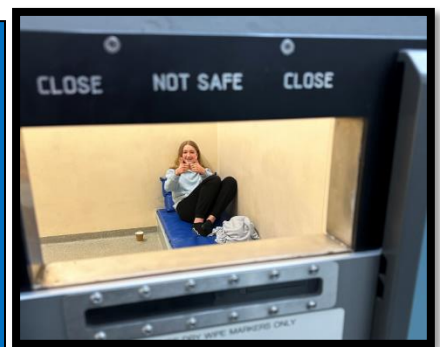
Cadets asked lots of questions including the statutory ones such as 'What's the best chase you've ever done?' They were then given a tour of the helicopter including being able to sit in it which some found very exciting....including VPC leaders!

Dan had planned to do some demonstration training for the cadets but due to low cloud was unable to do so, so he arranged for them to speak with the air ambulance pilot who are based at the same site.

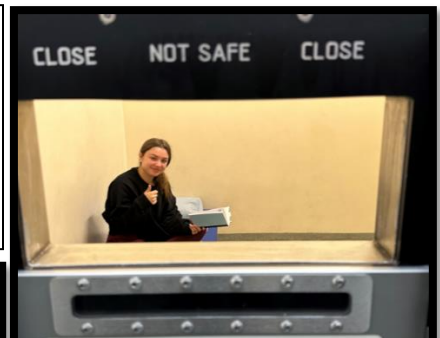
A very interesting day which ended with yet another journey home - via McDonalds!!!



## Berkshire Cadets spend 24hrs in custody



The West Berkshire cadets from Thames Valley Police carried out a sponsored '24 hours in custody' at Newbury Custody over the Easter holidays to raise money for their summer activities.



Some of the cadets chose to do 12-hour stints in custody and 2 managed the full 24 hours.



They were treated like real prisoners and raised over £1000.



## Grantham Cadets attend weekend camp with some animal welfare thrown



Cadets from Grantham attended a weekend camp during March.

Leaving Grantham Police Station at 6.00pm on the Friday arriving at our base camp a Youth Hostel in Edale in the Peak District two hours later.

After checking in, the first task for the cadets was to negotiate the never-ending steps up to the accommodation blocks. Once settled in, the cadets had some free time to make use of the games room in the main building and a bite to eat.

The following morning the cadets walked the Lady Bower and Derwent Reservoirs an area famed for its connection with the legendary Dambusters Raid during World War 2 that featured bouncing bombs, these bombs were tested on these reservoirs. The cadets walked about 12 miles suffering a few minor blisters that the leaders quickly treated before moving on.

The weather was very windy and wet to start, but as the day went on the weather improved, overall, it was a great day out.

They finished the day visiting Bakewell where several traditional Bakewell Puddings were purchased to take home as gifts, however, resistance was low when it came to sampling traditional Bakewell puddings by the cadets and Leaders, but who could blame them after building up their appetites on the walk.

The highlight of the Bakewell trip was both sad and happy, a male and female duck were found, killed by a motorist, leaving behind 7, orphaned, ducklings.

The ducklings were quickly rounded and after a short wait they were handed over to Ashford Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation where they will be cared for and later be released onto the river once grown.



On the Sunday the cadets enjoyed a trip in to Pooles Cavern keeping us all at a cool 7 degrees Celsius, careful not to stand about for too long unless you wanted to become petrified.

This was followed with a final walk to Solomons Temple to enjoy the views of the Peak District before returning to Pooles Cavern for lunch, then back to Grantham Police Station to their waiting parents.



## New TV show - CSI North Yorkshire ?



Not quite the glamour of CSI Las Vegas or the weather of CSI Miami – but these two Harrogate Cadets certainly have the pose!

They and their fellow Cadets recently received an input from the real-life CSI's from North Yorkshire Police.

Learning all about the role and even got to try on some of the kit!

The evening gave them a great insight into what it's like to be a CSI Officer and the cadets had a great time!



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