

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 summer has arrived and with it the opportunity for cadets (and leaders) to enjoy some fun in the sun.

Many VPC schemes have been enjoying summer camps and outdoor activities.

In addition, Cadets have been attending local events supporting policing and engaging with their communities.

This latest edition of the National VPC newsletter highlights some of these activities and more.

Some VPC schemes have been recruiting for new cadets starting in September and we look forward to seeing them progress through their cadet journey.

But with new young people joining we also have to say goodbye to those cadets who have come to the

end of their journey. Hopefully many are starting a new journey as a VPC Leaders and using their experience to inspire others. For those who are moving on, either into further education, employment, or something else, we wish you every success for the future.

National VPC



FIND US ON...



A fond farewell

After 36 years in Policing, Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer QPM has retired. Mr Sawyer was the National Police Chiefs Council portfolio lead for the Volunteer Police Cadets until earlier this year.

Mr Sawyer began his career with the Metropolitan Police in 1986.

As national VPC portfolio lead, Mr Sawyer oversaw the growth of the VPC scheme to being one of the fastest growing uniform youth groups across England & Wales.

His stewardship led to the creation of the National VPC strategy and the development of the Safe to Operate standards, introduced this year and now being implemented across all police forces in England & Wales to ensure the safe operation of VPC schemes.

His dedication, enthusiasm and leadership will be missed by all involved in the delivery of the Volunteer Police Cadet scheme.

We wish Mr Sawyer well in his retirement and what whatever he does next.



Thank you



VPC schemes across England & Wales continue to create good citizens

The Volunteer Police Cadet scheme, which is operated across 44 Police Forces in England & Wales seeks to give young people a practical understanding of policing, which will encourage the spirit of adventure and good citizenship.

This can be summed up by two recent examples of how the scheme has not only impacted on Cadets, but also who have not only developed themselves but also on those around them and people they meet.



Cadet Dat Duong from Kent VPC (Dartford Unit)

applied (outside the VPC) to travel to Morocco, to enable him and a group of young people to meet local villagers, learn about their culture and gain knowledge and understanding of the day to day challenges their community faces. The group were also on hand to offer their help and support within the community.

Before leaving the UK, he approached the Dartford VPC Leaders and Cadets for donations of books, games, Lego and small items he could take with him for the children in Morocco. He left the unit with his arms full of donations which were greatly received.

Since then, he was awarded an Amazon Voucher from the Kent VPC as he has won their Battlefield Quiz earlier in the year



Dats' parents said -

"The prize is very well received. It was put to very good use too: Dat matched £5 from his pocket money and was successful in asking people in the neighbourhood to match another £10 so he raised £20 funds, which he then used to buy gifts for the children in Morocco. He is currently in Morocco on his adventure, and the gifts, including those from the Dartford cadets and staff, really lit up some faces over there."

Dat joined Dartford in November 2021 and since then his VPC leaders have said he has grown in confidence, self-esteem, resilience and so much more.



Cadet Jess Hodsdon, a new member of the Mid Devon Volunteer Police Cadet Unit (Tiverton area) together with her friend, Abby slept 'rough' at the beginning of July to raise awareness of homelessness and funds for a local charity, the Churches Houses Action Team (CHAT).



This marks Jess's third time taking part in the event, the first time was with her family when she was five years old, and the second a few years ago when she slept in a church yard as part of a supervised public 'sleep out' organised by the charity.

Jess and Abby prepare their cardboard box for the sleep out - Credit: Tiverton High School

CHAT do not charge participants to take part in the event but do ask that they raise at least £30 to donate to the charity. So far, Jess and Abby have raised £150, with more donations still coming in.

Speaking of their 'sleep out', CHAT CEO, Alison Padfield, said:

"Although the CHAT sleep out won't replicate what it's like to be homeless, it will give you an insight into the reality that many people face every day. All money raised, will make a real difference, so thank you."

Based in Tiverton, CHAT (Churches Housing Action Team), supports people in Mid Devon with Debt and Housing Advice, Tenancy Support and Foodbank.

They also work with anyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness as there is a large number of people who are 'sofa surfing'. These people are often called the 'hidden homeless' because no one really knows how many people live like this.



Jess and Abby prepare their cardboard box for the sleep out - Credit: Tiverton High School

The actions of Cadets Dat and Abby are just two examples of many and demonstrates how VPC schemes can impact on a young person's life and shows how VPC programmes can make difference to not just the young people who join our VPC units but to those around them and people they meet.



Supporting the 2022 UK Police Unity Tour



Cadets supported this year's UK Police unity tour, which is an annual cycle ride raising funds for [Care of Police Survivors \(COPS\)](#). This year over 300 riders from across the UK converged at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire. The event ends with a service of remembrance. Cadets across England & Wales lined routes, baked cakes and were part of the Honour Guard as the riders arrived at the Arboretum.



Cadets get creative



South Buckinghamshire Cadets took part in an Eco-Friendly Float competition at the Burnham Carnival.

The Cadets got very creative over several weeks and made an outstanding float.



VPC Leader Callum Smith stepped up to the role of HRH The Queen, whilst the cadets became protection officers. There were even Corgi's!

The cadets came 1st in the competition winning £200 for their unit and the float has been donated to a local school for the children to play in.



Original float design

Mayor of Grantham appoints his 'Mayors Cadets'



Cadets learn about the police but also go out into their local communities, getting involved in events, initiatives and helping local policing teams.



Back in May, two Grantham Cadets received a warm welcome from the newly appointed Mayor of Grantham Councillor Graham Jeal 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 are assisting the Mayor with his Mayoral duties acting as ambassadors of Lincolnshire Police during the next 12 months visiting and supporting our local communities.



Cadets recognised in Force Citizens Policing Awards

In July, some of Northumbria Police's incredible cadets were amongst those honoured as part of the force's Citizens in Policing awards, for the time they volunteer to help their communities and their frontline colleagues.

The awards recognised the outstanding contributions made by selfless volunteers while serving the many communities Northumbria Police are responsible for.

Two cadets took home the top prize of Cadet of the Year as judges simply couldn't choose between them.



Cadet Edan (far right) receiving his award and two fellow cadets collecting the award on Cadet Charlie's behalf

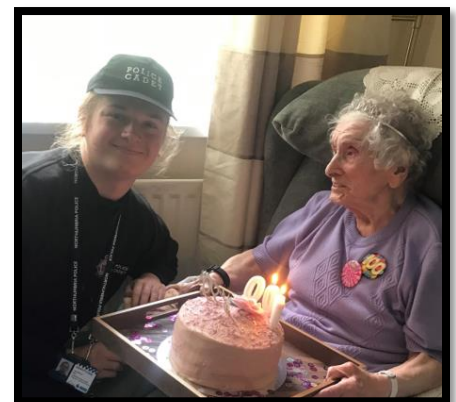
Cadet Charlie and **Cadet Edan** were the two well-deserving winners – the judges felt they were more than worthy recipients for their continuous efforts to always go above and beyond in everything they put their minds to.

From supporting the elderly in their communities, to coming up with innovative ways to better support policing, Charlie and Edan are always first to volunteer and provide their help.

Edan is described as an inspiration to all and is someone who can be trusted to complete any task to the highest of standards and treat everyone in a caring manner. The voluntary work that Edan does for the community goes so much further than just Northumbria Police – he also volunteers with the Army cadets and the Salvation Army.

Charlie has a passion for helping others and it comes so naturally to him. He has organised fundraisers for a number of charities through running, swimming, and other events that he plans himself. He has also organised a gift collection for Metro Radio's Children in Need appeal and consistently puts others ahead of himself.

Charlie was unable to attend the awards ceremony as he was on holiday but here he is pictured with Lily, who is 100 years old and who Charlie visits/takes and takes out on trips etc.!



Assistant Cadet Leader Chloe Bell also won the Outstanding Leadership Award at the ceremony.

Chloe is a former Cadet who has progressed into the role of Assistant Cadet Leader (as well as working as a Police Call Handler for Northumbria Police).

She coordinates/tasks the Cadets at events, links in with external partners, and regularly uses her initiative, coming up with idea of ways to inspire and involve the cadets within the community. Her Cadet Leader detailed that she has shown true leadership and dedication in her role, always putting others before herself. Chloe is an incredibly positive role model for the Cadets.



Ass/Leader Chloe Bell receiving her award from CC Keenan

Chief Superintendent Janice Hutton, who leads on volunteering operationally for Northumbria Police, said:

“It was an honour to be able to celebrate the hard work that the Northumbria Police Cadets do and highlight their contribution to policing and the communities we all serve. Congratulations to all our winners – without you Northumbria Police would not be the outstanding organisation it is. Volunteers play a vital role and help us in our mission to keep Northumbria one of the safest places to live, work, and visit.

Our Cadets are part of Northumbria Police’s amazing workforce, and they continue to deliver an incredible effort that is felt by everyone they work with and support as part of their role.

They are dedicated, fantastic, and generous people and we are proud to have them as part of our police family.”



In addition to the Citizen In Policing Awards, a Chief Constables Commendation has been awarded to **Cadet Elliae-Mae** who was nominated for the Chief’s Commendation due to her quick-thinking response and admirable action, following a recent incident at a metro station.

Her quick-thinking actions went beyond the expectations of Ellie-Mae and ultimately contributed to saving an individual’s life. This action demonstrated Ellie-Mae’s determination to support wellbeing, and her dynamic attitude towards protecting vulnerable members of the community”

Gwent Cadets raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation



Cadets from Gwent VPC were asked to take part in a video to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation.

The Cadets did a great job and the resulting video which has been shared widely on social media can be viewed on YouTube below.



Bodmin Cadets on speed watch



DEVON & CORNWALL
CONSTABULARY

Cadets from Devon & Cornwall Bodmin unit supported the Bodmin Neighbourhood Policing in addressing residents' concerns regarding speeding cars passing through their villages.



The team started at Bodmin Keep and moved onto Lanivet. The cadets enjoyed being out in the community, showing their presence but also helping to reduce the number of cars speeding in their local area (even if they did get a little wet!).

The Cadets monitored 65 vehicles travelling faster than the speed limit of 30mph in both locations. This information was be passed back to the local neighbourhood team to help with parish council meetings and police statistics of speeding in the local area.

Cadets out and about with Pride



Colchester Volunteer Police Cadets were invited to assist Essex Police run their stand at Colchester Pride, which is in its 5th year. This year was a landmark year, as it was the first year there was a March from the Mercury Theatre to the event at Firstsite.

All involved did a fantastic job in promoting Essex Police and helping to advise others how to report hate crimes and keep themselves safe. Victoria Matthews, who was helping to run the stand, said that they wouldn't have been able to do this without the cadet's support!

Three Nottinghamshire Police Volunteer Police Cadets; Luke, Daria and Angel, along with Cadet Leader Steve and Volunteer Co-Ordinator Lyndsey, joined Chief Constable Craig Guildford and other Nottinghamshire Police Officers and Special Constables on the Pride Parade through the centre of Nottingham on Saturday morning.

During the parade, the cadets got to hold the Nottinghamshire Police Flag and speak to people about what Pride represents. After the parade, the cadets then visited the Nottinghamshire Police and Nottinghamshire Police & Crime Commissioner stalls to speak with officers and colleagues about the day.

Volunteer Co-Ordinator, Lyndsey Hufton said,

"The event was great and the atmosphere within Nottingham was fantastic! None of our cadets had experienced a Pride event before but they all said that they really enjoyed the event and that they thought the parade showed great support to the LGBTQ+ community. They all said at the end that they would be definitely coming back next year to show their support again"





Seven Cadets and three leaders from all three policing areas in Dorset Police attended their Pride event.



Insp Alyssa Forrest said,

"Thank you all for supporting Pride last weekend. It was such a fantastic event that was made special by each one of you.

Being involved with something so positive is a rare opportunity and for me it is soul food. I hope you all enjoyed the event, and you did Dorset Police proud.

I have had feedback that the community was grateful to see us taking part and standing with them."



Hertfordshire Cadets get a taste of policing

Cadets from East Herts and Broxbourne & Cheshunt were joined by members of the Special Constabulary and Police Support Volunteer role players to take part in mock-up scenarios based on the training given to new Special Constables and regular officers.

The scenarios were based on a theft from a shop, a drunk person in charge of a motor vehicle, criminal damage, a missing person, taking a statement from a vulnerable victim of crime, and dealing with a suspected PWITS (possession of drugs with intent to supply).

The evening ended with all the cadets being called to a scene of a stabbing where the suspect was being assisted by a friend, with the victim's wife arriving shortly after the cadets. The cadets really enjoyed the evening and learnt a lot.

Community Safety Officer Bob Cox, who leads Broxbourne & Cheshunt Cadets and organised the event, said-

"It was a fantastic evening, and great to see the Special Constabulary and Police Support Volunteers giving up their time and experience to train our cadets. I'd like to say a massive thank you to all who took part."

Leicestershire Cadets European adventure

9 Leicestershire Cadets travelled with two leaders to Krefeld, Germany this weekend for the annual youth Soap Box derby



The cadets had a busy time exploring Düsseldorf, a trip up the Rhine Tower & meeting the mayor. Whilst getting their soapbox car/bus ready for the race.

Although the Cadets didn't win the 'speed' race they came 1st for the creativity & design of their bus!



They then headed off to visit the local police station this morning to learn more about policing in Germany & the differences to here in the UK.



Well done, Team!

Chichester Cadets



Chichester Cadets recently did some work on a local estate with the Chair of the Joint Action Group (JAG) Pam Bushby from the District Council.

Cadets engaged with residents and completed approximately 140 questionnaires regarding ways to improve and develop the area.



Pam Bushby said,

"In my role as I would like to pass on our thanks to PC Sarah Pack and her police cadets who more than ably supported the delivery of the resident surveys in Whyke.

They were absolutely outstanding and engaged with residents with true professionalism and confidence. They were an absolute credit to Sussex Police and their enthusiasm and support was very well received.

PC Pack is an exemplar of a Police Officer, and her support as always was very much appreciated. We look forward to continuing our work with the cadets and Sarah in the future. From Pam Bushby, Divisional Manager Communities and Customer Services, Chichester District Council."

Summer fun!



Just a few examples of the summer activities Cadet have been getting up to across several police forces. These would not be possible without the support of Cadet Leaders and Police Forces'





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)**