

# 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.

A collective sigh of relief could be heard across VPC schemes when COVID restrictions were lifted. Although we acknowledge that some forces have decided to suspend activity until September (or later) which is entirely understandable. The lifting of restrictions has seen some Cadets and Leaders start to get back to some sort of normality,

with weekly face to face sessions, community social action and most recently summer camps. It is a testament to the commitment and dedication of our Leaders that the majority of VPC schemes have been able to resume and Cadets have been enjoying once again what is on offer as part of their VPC program. There are still challenges ahead before we can say we are back to

normal, but with the enthusiasm being shown, and with police forces actively recruiting both new cadets and new leaders, we look forward to seeing what everyone gets up to in the coming weeks and months.

*National VPC*



## FIND US ON...



## THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS



In June 2021, VPC Leader and PC, Chris Madden QPM, was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours. His award comes as recognition for his services to young people in the borough.

A member of West Yorkshire Police since 2005, and the VPC Leader for West Yorkshires Calderdale VPC unit, he has been committed to helping improve youngsters' lives and this has included coming up with a range of diversionary activity to steer them away from criminal activity. Using his personal experiences and knowledge of fishing, he started by encouraging young people to become involved in a fishing programme. In 2014 he approached the owners of Sunnyvale and secured a lease for its use, creating a classroom and transforming the site into an activity area.

The centre provides opportunities for climbing, archery and canoeing as well as education about subjects such as knife-crime and online safety. In February 2020, he created and directed a short film about the dangers of carrying a knife featuring young people he had helped and Police Cadets as the cast. The film was a huge success and was widely shown across the country on YouTube, which can be viewed [here](#).

*"I am honoured and privileged to accept this award," said PC Madden. "I love my job and I am dedicated to improving the lives of young people from all backgrounds. I am also very grateful for the support and commitment from West Yorkshire Police, volunteers at Sunnyvale, the site owners, West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit, and various other organisations over the last five years who have helped and supported me with my vision for Sunnyvale and all we have achieved to date. I would also like to mention my amazing early intervention team who been by my side throughout."*



*"I am looking forward to how we can build and maintain the work in the area of early intervention in Calderdale and across West Yorkshire."*

**West Yorkshire Police's Chief Constable John Robins** said: *"I was privileged to be at the formal opening of Sunnyvale in 2016 and to see first-hand some of the excellent work that Chris helped create and maintain. I have no doubt that, thanks to Chris' efforts, a lot of young people in Calderdale and West Yorkshire have had the opportunity for a far brighter future than they otherwise might have had, and he should be very proud of all he has achieved. "On behalf of West Yorkshire Police and the communities of Calderdale, I thank and congratulate him for his dedication and commitment over many years to improving the lives of young people."*



## Staffordshire Cadets support national event



22 Cadets alongside their VPC leaders from Staffordshire attended the National Memorial Arboretum for the dedication of the UK Police Memorial.

Present at this special event was HRH The Prince of Wales, The Prime Minister, The Home Secretary and Chief Constable's from every force in the UK, alongside the families of fallen officers.



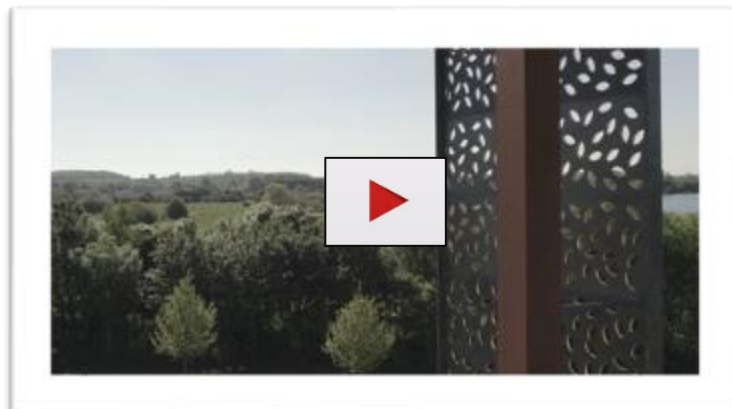
The cadets undertook a variety of duties from supporting visitors to a guard of honour and assisting VIP guests, as always, they conducted themselves with professionalism and impeccable standards.



### Chief Supt Sharrard-Williams said -

*'I am exceptionally proud and grateful for their shining example of the very best of the Force and young people of our county. A special thank you to the leaders who also attended to support them.'*

Highlights of the dedication ceremony can be viewed below.



## Met. Cadet wins NHS Rising Star Regional Champion



Cadet Kiera Ghouneim won NHS Rising Star Regional Winner for London, at the NHS Parliament Awards.

Kiera is a Junior Practice Champion for Connecting Care for Children at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington who has worked to support health issues effecting young people and be a voice for young people who lack confidence to speak out for themselves.

Kiera was nominated by Nickie Aiken, MP who said,

*"Congratulations to Kiera for winning her award, Kiera is a truly*

*inspirational young woman with a very bright future."*



Kiera pictured with Health Secretary Sajid Javid MP at the awards ceremony

## Forces announce Cadets of the Year-



Lincolnshire Police is proud to recognise the enthusiasm, commitment, and contribution of all their cadets. The nominations for the Cadet of the Year award were of such a high caliber, which made the committee's decision more difficult. The force has on average about 140 cadets in seven Corps across the county.



The Cadet of the Year Award for 2019/20 was awarded to Jonty Horn from the Lincoln Cadet Corps for his commitment and

enthusiasm at cadets and in his wider community, specifically his work in the early stages of the pandemic. His interests at college linked with the pressing need to deliver PPE to the NHS staff and carers' in the community. He determined to use the facilities available to him to produce and supply visors and face masks on his home 3D printer. He produced and delivered the masks at a time when care homes and hospices were struggling to get hold of them.

Kacper Majewski, from Lincolnshire Police's Boston Cadet corps received a 'Highly Commended' certificate. That was presented to him by ACC Chris Davison at a local ceremony on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

The ceremony had been due to take place with other force achievement awards in October 2020 but was delayed due to COVID.

ACC Davison said, "It with pride and gratitude that I present Kacper with his Cadet of the Year Highly Commended certificate. Kacper exemplifies the values and behaviour that we expect of our cadets and this award is extremely well deserved. Kacper obviously has the respect and regard of his cadet leaders and fellow cadets."

Kacper has been a cadet since May 2018 and throughout his time with Boston cadets has given 100%. He is enthusiastic and always does everything to the best of his ability. During his time with the Police Cadets Kacper has been an excellent role model and his fellow cadets also voted him as Cadet of the Year for Boston corps.

Peter Hunn, Boston cadet leader says, "It is a pleasure to have Kacper as one of our cadets and he is a worthy recipient of the Highly Commended certificate. Over and above his contribution and participation at cadets, Kacper always gets involved in our community activities. He has been instrumental in helping us to reach out to young people from diverse backgrounds, especially those young people from Eastern European backgrounds. English is Kacper's second language, and he understands the difficulties of adapting to life in a different country. He is a real asset when we hold our recruitment open evenings or community events and is able to reassure and engage with young people from diverse backgrounds."

Lincolnshire Police is extremely proud of all its cadets and especially those such as Jonty and Kacper who go the extra mile to help others.



Dorset Police awarded their Cadet of the Year to—

### Cadet Gala

Gala is described as a shining example of what the VPC is all about and has blossomed to a confident, articulate, compassionate Cadet. From keeping a cool head at an RTC to taking part in social action.

**Gala sums it up herself here—**

*'I'm so proud to not only be nominated but win Cadet of the Year at the Dorset Police Awards. Wow! My favourite things about being a Dorset Police Volunteer Cadet is how*

*we are a team, for both each other and as a community. Being a Cadet has helped me to do and learn new things and people I wouldn't have gotten to experience anywhere else, but I have found that Cadets have helped me to improve as a person and to be more confident.*

*I have enjoyed taking part in Social Action. Going (sort of!) undercover for the Operation Sceptre to tackle knife crime nationally. We went into shops to attempt to buy knives to test purchase our local big national and independent shops was certainly the most fun, some of the reactions we got were great despite being so far or in some cases, so close to an actual sale!*



*My favourite guest speakers were when a couple of Inspectors from the Major Crime Unit came in. Getting to question them as well as being questioned when going along with a real-life murder they had had to deal with really gave me an insight into their job from a real-life perspective!*

*So, what does my future hold within the Cadets and Dorset Police? I'm asked this quite a bit but there's so much in policing that I'd like to do that I've ended up making a future timeline of what I'd like to do in the police and when. So far, I know that I want to be a community officer when I start, at some point become a Negotiator (as suicide prevention is one of the reasons why I want to be in the police), and then later be part of the rural policing team.*

*I look forward to becoming a junior Cadet Leader in a new Unit opening in Poole when I turn 18 years old. I hope to be a part of the Cadet family for as long as I can. I wish to inspire other kids into joining our police and being good people. Today, not everyone likes or respects the police and I think that reaching out and showing kids who we really are and what we are about together can change that perspective.'*

**T/Insp Allyssa Forrest (Citizens in Policing, Prevention Team) said –**

*Thinking of the year we have had; I reflect on a quote by Charles Swindoll. "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it". Cadets and Leaders have shown great resilience and agility over the last challenging year taking what opportunities we had and making something great.*

*I am proud of each and every Cadet. Putting on this uniform is making a commitment to the community but also to challenge yourself and grow. The last 6 months has been packed with great activities and social action, you have all stepped up and stepped out of your comfort zones. I would like to congratulate Gala for becoming Cadet of the year 2021. This was not an easy decision with Cadets, Ella, Harrison D Harrison F and Ryan finishing very close runners up. Well done!*

In addition to Cadet Gala's award Dorset VPC leaders also won the Police Support Volunteer Team of the Year! – and now progress to the South West regional awards....well done all!

## Derbyshire VPC Leader commended



VPC Leader Vince received a Divisional Commendation for his commitment and diligence to the Force as a Police Service Volunteer. He was presented with his certificate by Chief Superintendent Wilson.





## Gwent cadets raise awareness about Child Exploitation

Gwent cadets have taken part in a campaign to raise awareness of Child Exploitation. Child exploitation can take many different forms including sexual exploitation, trafficking, modern day slavery and criminal exploitation such as selling drugs in county lines gangs. Child criminal exploitation can involve bribery, violence, or threats.

Watch the cadets explain what signs to look out for in the video below

Signs include:

- Lifestyles they cannot afford e.g., new mobile, clothes, money etc.
- Travelling at unusual times – with new people
- Making or receiving excessive calls/texts
- Become secretive or withdrawn from school, family, or friends



## Mini-Police arrive in Kent

Kent Police launched the Mini Police Cadets programme resulting in an Award Ceremony on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021. This was a monumental occasion to celebrate the achievements of the Mini Cadets during the 8 sessions they have taken part in, from the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021. Julia Lindon-Taylor, Mini & Junior Cadet Coordinator has seen first-hand how the Cadets have grown in confidence, overcoming personal barriers, and coming together as a team whilst developing good citizenship.



The Mini Cadets programme is available for 12 students aged between 8-11, however the Temple Hill Primary students were from year 6 and one from year 5 due to Covid restrictions.

The programme was designed to deliver a variety of topics in Policing including, ice breakers, online safety, road safety, how to contact the emergency services, writing in a Pocket Notebook, which all officers carry out in their job role and more.



Mini Cadets is part of the National VPC, and it is delivered by other forces, however, this is the first ever Mini Cadets programme within Kent.

The Mini-Cadets have taken part in Sports/Team building and Drill. Learned about the ranks in policing and other roles within Kent Police. They had the opportunity to meet local PCSO's and ask questions about policing and a day in the life of a Police Officer/PCSO which they thoroughly enjoyed.

They have completed the Mini Medics course, and all passed with flying colours so now know how to deliver CPR and place someone into the recovery position as well as treating minor injuries.

They created a notice board within the school to deliver online safety and road safety messages to other students, which then led onto their Social Action Event which was speaking with members of the public outside of their school about road safety and give drivers marks out of 10 also. This was very well received, and the school fed back that the event was a huge success and road users were respectful and calm on the day.

There has been an opportunity for the Mini Cadets to vote for their peers to become Mini Cadet Sergeant and as such Mini Cadet Childs was successful, receiving a certificate for this promotion. In addition to this Mini Cadet Jeevarasa has also been promoted to Cadet Sgt as he had demonstrated confidence in delivering the drill commands, helped his fellow cadets with tasks and is well respected also. Huge congratulations to both these cadets.

The latest session entailed a visit to Bluewater Police Station then onto the Kent Police Engagement Centre at Bluewater to learn more about Crime Prevention and keeping safe. The Cadets thoroughly enjoyed this day and all were fully immersed into the experience, especially getting shut into a police cell for a moment or 2.

Julia cannot thank the staff at Temple Hill Primary School enough for all their support throughout the programme. Amanda Miles and Julie Rye have been instrumental in their support week in and week out, liaising with the cadets, working tirelessly behind the scenes.

Julia is now liaising with Primary Schools in the County, as well as the Youth Engagement Officer (YEO), PCSO's to invite them to take part in the Mini Cadet programme starting in October 2021.

The YEO's are invaluable to this programme and they are excited to be delivering this in the nominated primary school(s) within their area. This will enable 12 students per school to become the next members of the Kent Policing Family, gaining new experiences and learning new skills, which can leave a positive lifechanging imprint on their lives.

The changes observed from Session 1 to Session 8 has been phenomenal. The Cadets are all so proud to wear their uniform and be a part of this program and all have stated how much they have enjoyed each session".

*Interested in starting a Mini-Police scheme in your Force? Contact National VPC Operations Manager, Mick Urwin for or information – [mick.urwin@vpc.police.uk](mailto:mick.urwin@vpc.police.uk)*





## Historic England award for Sussex Cadets



Cadets from Sussex have received certificates from Historic England for completing the VPC Historic England Crime challenge.



They are the first to complete the challenge with Cadets in seven other forces are also completing.



Cadets from Wealden Cadet Unit, East Sussex to investigated ways in which heritage crimes such as theft, vandalism, and anti-social behaviour, could be prevented, and they chose to focus on local church heritage sites. They did research, heard from visiting speakers, and conducted a number of crime prevention assessment visits to churches local to each Cadet, before pooling their findings

into a joint presentation to stakeholders. This was followed by visits to meet local church leaders.

Cadets taking part in the initiative, have been using bespoke VPC training materials to not only learn about heritage crime but to plan and lead their own social action.

As we approach Remembrance Day 2021 Cadets will again be invited to research and submit reports on the condition of their local War Memorials at General youth group resources | War Memorials Trust ([learnaboutwarmemorials.org.uk](http://learnaboutwarmemorials.org.uk))

The project is being independently evaluated by the Institute for Public Safety, Crime and Justice at Northampton University. The project is also being developed in Wales in partnership with Cadw. Currently at project initiation, a pilot is planned for Spring 2022 by Dyfed Powys Police.

If you'd like to know more about the Historic England Crime Challenge get in touch with James (England) at [VPC@youngvoicesheard.org.uk](mailto:VPC@youngvoicesheard.org.uk) and for Wales [Denise.Lodge@south-wales.police.uk](mailto:Denise.Lodge@south-wales.police.uk)

## Cadets add their voices in Dorset

One of the stated aims of the VPC is enabling young people to have a real voice and influence in building a positive, relevant 21<sup>st</sup> century policing.

Dorset Police have been one of a few forces working closely with the National VPC Team to pilot Cadet Youth Voice and recently Cadets from Bournemouth took part in a Dragons Den event and were joined by the Police and Crime Commissioner David Sidwick.



Cadets presented their views and ideas on a number of different subjects.

**Temp. Insp Allyssa Forrest** said *"I am proud that Dorset Police is a pilot force of Youth Voice. It is a key aim of Police Cadets to hear the voice and perspective of young people throughout Policing. The Cadets have not only gained a great deal from this, but they have also grown in confidence. Dorset Police has benefited from listening to their fresh ideas and perspectives"*.



**Police and Crime Commissioner David Sidwick** said *"I was absolutely delighted to be invited to take part in the Youth Voice 'Dragons Den' event last month. I listened to some inspirational suggestions, and it was fascinating to hear the young people bouncing around ideas, debating, and coming up with a fresh take on old problems.*

*It's important to recognise that our younger residents have very valid opinions on the issues that affect them, and their communities and I*

*have nothing but praise for the way in which the Cadets brought their own perspective, their own experiences and most importantly their own potential solutions to the debating table"*.

## The Disney Magic continues...



The **WALT DISNEY** Company  
Europe, Middle East & Africa

The partnership between The Walt Disney Company EMEA Security partnership and the National VPC took another step forward with three teams of Volunteer Police Cadets joining the Disney Security team at the Leicester Square Cineworld in London they had an amazing experience at the UK Premiere of 20th Century Studios' latest major

film, "Free Guy"



Leading on from the biggest-ever VPC webinar to meet senior executives, film makers and professionals from The Walt Disney Company and find out all about the organisation, where 800 VPCs representing police forces across the UK joined online and with changes in youth activity COVID restrictions VPC teams from Croydon, Westminster and Hammersmith & Fulham, were invited for

the first time ever to support this major event for "Free Guy", alongside professional colleagues and security teams on the VIP carpet and inside the cinema.

After a welcome briefing by The Walt Disney Company's EMEA (Europe, Middle East, and Africa) Security Team, the cadets had a tour of the venue which was being changed and set-dressed to welcome the stars, celebrities, and VIPs.

They then took positions in and around the location, fully immersed and watching such an iconic premiere event unfold live in front of them. The highlight was meeting star Jodie Comer who spoke to cadets about their experiences and invited them onto the VIP carpet with her for photos.

**Sabrina Bains, lead liaison from TWDC EMEA Security, said** *"I was blown away by the professionalism of the cadets and their willingness to carry on with the job at hand despite the atrocious weather! It was fantastic working with such a hardworking and inquisitive group of young people. The cadets are a credit to their leaders, and we are very excited to continue working closely as a team with the VPC."*



**Cadet coordinator PC Becky Pitt said -**

*"I could see the cadet's excitement as soon as they knew it was a possibility and then it continued to grow on the way to central London, during the event and even then, on the way home! It was brilliant to see how seriously they took their roles in helping and the surprise and appreciation for all the work that goes into preparing and running the event. The surprise for me was that it wasn't just the celebrities & talent that they were interested in but also the event management and security. They are still asking questions now about things they saw or experienced. Thank you!"*

The Volunteer Police Cadets, all aged 15 – 17, had an amazing day. Here's what they said -

*"It was an amazing opportunity for us as not many teenagers get to help out at such a big event. It was one of the best experiences of my life."*

*"I think I can say for all of us we were all extremely excited to help in the event and left buzzing, can't wait to see if there is another event we can help with. Thank you!"*

*"Thank you for an awesome opportunity, we as cadets have never really been involved in such an event before and it was amazing to be part of it. It was very interesting to have an insight into just how a big event is managed and dealt with to make sure everything runs smoothly, and security measures are in place and maintained."*

*"We got an amazing experience yesterday to be able to see all the work put into major events by Disney and to have the opportunity to help was so much fun, especially because its such unique experience that not many people ever get to see."*

*"Thank you for the opportunity to see how events are put together and how every person has a role to play in the event going smoothly and the opportunity to meet people. It was amazing for every one of us to be invited."*

**Tim Mann, National VPC Projects and Partnerships lead said,** *"Thank you so much to our incredible TWDC EMEA Security team partners & colleagues who have given our VPC teams such a great experience, and especially our amazing cadets who have been absolutely brilliant at this our first-ever live film premiere event"*

The intention is for similar events to be held in other locations across England & Wales so that the opportunity is available to Cadets in as many Police Forces as possible.



## A Summer of fun!

With the lifting of COVID restrictions Volunteer Police Cadets all over England & Wales have been able to enjoy a return to some sort of normality over the summer, with the return of summer camps and outdoor activities. While not every VPC scheme has returned it has been uplifting to see young people and leaders being able to get together once again. Social media posts from VPC schemes have been full of pictures of Cadets (and Leaders) having a great time! Just a few examples here -





**Have you got a story for us?**

**We want to highlight the great work done by Cadets & Leaders across all VPC schemes.**

**Let us know by emailing: [vpc.admin@vpc.police.uk](mailto:vpc.admin@vpc.police.uk)**

**(We endeavor to include as many articles as we can)**