

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.

Summer is over! The dark nights are closing in and we start the countdown to Christmas. Cadet schemes across England & Wales have started to resume some form of normality, although not all and in some areas have had to pause face to face activity due to heightened incidents of local COVID infections. This is fully supported by National VPC as the priority must be the

safety of our cadets and leaders. On a national level our COVID status hasn't changed and can be viewed on our website.

There have been some changes in the National VPC Team after the summer with team members Graham Ironside and Mateusz Strzeszweski, leaving the team. Both were valuable team members, and we wish to thank them for the work

they undertook, in helping and supporting police forces deliver a safe VPC scheme. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

This newsletter sees lots of rightly deserved recognition for cadets and leaders as well as social action and fun!

National VPC



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Lord Ferrers Awards 2021



Volunteer Police Cadets and Leaders were amongst those honoured at the 2021 Lord Ferrers Awards ceremony on the 14th October at an event held on 14th October at Lancaster House, London and attended by the Home Secretary and Policing Minister and hosted by BBC News presenter Sir Martyn Lewis.

The Lord Ferrers Awards celebrates the contributions of Police Support Volunteers, Special Constables, Volunteer Police Cadets, and volunteers supporting the work of Police and Crime Commissioners.

The Volunteer Police Cadet Individual Award



Awarded to Cadet Shilah McGregor, Northumbria Police.

Shilah inspired many cadets who were struggling during lockdown to take an active role in the cadet programme through reaching out online and offering encouragement and support on an ongoing basis and continues to do so.

Runner up was Cadet Harry Snelson, Lancashire Police



The Volunteer Police Cadet Team Award

Awarded to Gwent Police Senior Cadets.

The cadets, assisted by Cadet Leader Deke Williams, developed a youth advocate mentor role to proactively engage with young people on domestic abuse and coercive relationships by delivering awareness sessions, roadshows, community events and promotional videos in partnership with the White Ribbon.

Runners up were Northumbria Police, North Tyneside VPC Unit



The Volunteering in Partnership Award



And congratulations to Ipswich Cadets who also deserve a shout out for being runners up in the Volunteering in Partnership Award

The Ipswich Cadet Team's volunteer work in the town was recognised at the ceremony when they clinched the runners-up spot.

The cadets met concerns from some residents about home security and burglaries by offering both reassurance and free home security devices to local people.

Home Secretary Priti Patel, who presented awards said:

'It is heartening to see these volunteers joining our brave police officers working tirelessly to cut crime and protect the public during an unprecedented time. Their selfless work putting the most vulnerable people in their neighborhoods first and caring for their communities represents the very best in the British public. I want to congratulate each and every one of the winners – they are a vital part of the policing family.'

Policing Minister Kit Malthouse, also in attendance said,

'Volunteers are treasured members of the policing family and I have nothing but the highest regard for people who give up their free time to help keep their neighbours safe. During a very tough year for everyone, this year's winners are people who have helped engage young people on domestic abuse, supported vulnerable people in their communities and encouraged their police forces to become more diverse. I would like to thank each and every one and encourage them to continue to play that vital role in society.'

Staffordshire VPC Leader presented with Volunteer of the Year 2020 award



Congratulations to Cadet Leader Teresa Brazil finally being able to accept her award for volunteer of the year 2020 which recognises her tireless work at Lichfield and Tamworth VPC Units. The ceremony was delayed due to COVID.



Dorset VPC Leaders highly commended



Congratulations to Dorset Cadet Leaders for being Highly Commended in recognition for the hard work you all put in this year at the South-West Regional Special Constable and Police Volunteers of Year Awards hosted by Devon & Cornwall Constabulary in October.

Wiltshire announce their annual Police Cadet Winners



Most Improved Cadet of the Year

Swindon Unit – Cadet Crane
 Chippenham Unit – Cadet Gittins
 Trowbridge Unit – Cadet George
 Salisbury Unit – Cadet Seabrook

Unit Cadet of the Year

Swindon Unit – Cadet Thompson
 Chippenham Unit – Cadet Collins
 Trowbridge Unit – Cadet Hobson
 Salisbury Unit – Cadet Heath

High Sheriff Cadet of the Year

Swindon Unit – Cadet Crane
 Chippenham Unit – Cadet Collins
 Trowbridge Unit – Cadet Hobson
 Salisbury Unit – Cadet Seabrook



Solihull Cadets are Active Citizens

Cadets from West Midlands Solihull Unit were presented with an active citizens award for their commitment, passion, good nature and pride they devote to Police Cadets every week.



Cadet Guard of Honour



Three Kent units came together on Friday 8th October to attend the Justice Service ceremony at Rochester Cathedral after the cadets were invited to take part by the High Sheriff of Kent and formed the guard of honour for the members of the judiciary.

16 Cadets across Medway, Gravesend and Sittingbourne units formed a guard of honour to welcome the judiciary into the Cathedral and again for the exit procession.



They also had the opportunity to meet the High Sheriffs of both Kent and Sussex as well as several Crown Court judges who were really impressed with the Cadets and keen to learn what Cadets are all about. They even allowed them to try on their judicial wigs!



Two Cadets were very honoured to be asked to take charge of the Ceremonial swords for both the High Sheriff of Kent and High Sheriff of Sussex and they kept them safe throughout the service.

So many positive comments have been received from the judiciary present, the clergy and the public saying what a credit these young people are, how polite and smart they are and how they show the young people of today in such a positive light. We are very proud of them all.



Grantham police cadets wear fancy dress for charity walk.



Cadets from Lincolnshire Police Grantham Unit took part in a fancy-dress fun walk on 13th October to raise funds for an eating disorder charity.

The cadets wanted to do something special for the community and decided to raise money for BEAT, the UK's leading charity supporting those affected by eating disorders, after seeing reports that the numbers of reported cases had risen over the pandemic.

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Shannon Rogers helped to organize the fund-raiser. She said: *"The decision to go with Beat was easy as one of our leaders struggled with the early signs of an eating disorder as a teenager and so it sealed the charity for us."*

Bedfordshire Cadets fundraising



Cadet instructor Rachel Carne and Cadets raising funds for 'Young lives v Cancer' and 'Click Sergeant' in Leighton Buzzard. Cycling 50 miles on exercise bikes. Interacting with the local community offering advice and talking about their cadet program.



What a Summer!



Cadets from the Isle of Man youth scheme packed a lot into their summer.

On the 17th of July six cadets started off the summer by competing in the annual snake race held in Castletown. The cadets sadly didn't win coming last but they all had a great time, giving it a go! They will be back to compete next year entering more cadet teams.



On the 4th September the Isle of Man Police Youth Scheme undertook the biennial three peaks change in honour of Richie Lloyd, who was an amazing cadet leader who sadly passed away last year. In memory of his legacy ex cadets, current cadets and serving police officers set out to walk 42km over the three biggest peaks inclusive of a mountain on the Isle of Man raising money for his favourite charity the Manx RSPCA. Everyone gave it their best efforts, with majority of participants finishing the whole walk.

Over summer, some of the cadets were given the opportunity to travel to Scotland for a week to canoe around the locks and wild camp. This evolved canoeing around 5 hours a day and learning new outdoor survival skills. Some of the cadets had already completed their bronze and silver Duke of Edinburgh Award so had some background knowledge for others it was a completely new experience. After being hit by uncontrollable winds and being



forced to stop on the third day into the trip the cadets had to get up early and attack the water whilst it was nice and calm the next day, the cadets learnt to help each other and to work as a team when others were struggling this really showed when they had to carry the

canoes from a closed lock to a sea lock, this was hard work but the team pulled together to complete the task.

Finally, they decided to walk up Ben Nevis, on the bucket list for most of the cadets, all made it to the top, some proving to themselves they can do more than they think.

As summer drew to an end, six of the cadets were given the chance to sail on the Tall Ships. This will be an exciting new experience for the cadets, hopefully meeting up with some of their counterparts in Liverpool learn and develop new skills.



The Earl of Wessex KG GCVO officially launches YOU West Midlands



On Thursday 16th September 2021 the Earl of Wessex KG GCVO officially launched Youth Organisations in Uniform West Midlands (YOU West Midlands) at a special event during his visit to Birmingham

YOU West Midlands is a collaboration of the 11 Youth Organisations in Uniform across Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, and Wolverhampton, who currently comprise some 20,000 young people

The 11 Youth Organisations are the Volunteer Police Cadets, Army Cadet Force, Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association, Combined Cadet Forces, Fire Cadets, Girlguiding, Girls' Brigade, RAF Air Cadets, Sea Cadet Corps, Scouts and St John Ambulance

Cadets and VPC Leaders were amongst the young people and adult leaders from the organisations who were able to speak to His Royal Highness about their involvement, what they enjoyed and the skills they have gained.

As a Patron of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme His Royal Highness was also interested to hear about young people's involvement in these schemes as part of the youth organisation.

Following this His Royal Highness gave a short speech before the official launch.

YOU West Midlands is chaired by the West Midland Lieutenancy with support from the West Midland Reserve Forces & Cadets Association and enthusiastic involvement by all 11 youth organisations.

Participation by a young person in a uniformed youth organisation can play a life-changing part in the development of the skills and confidence needed to fulfil their potential and to enable them to play an active role as a citizen in our communities.

For this reason, YOU West Midlands will provide a high quality web portal with information on opportunities locally available, help attract and develop adult volunteers, support collaboration between the youth organisations and raise awareness of the benefits of uniformed youth organisations to an individual and the community.

The collaboration of these organisations will provide numerous benefits including, but not limited to, skill and knowledge sharing, shared training events, partnership bids for funding and coordinated attendance at community events allowing a bigger youth presence. An additional added benefit, particularly for the young people, will be inter-organisation events such as sports or first aid competitions, quizzes, concerts or debating groups.

City of London Cadets join forces



The City of London Head Cadet and their longest serving cadet joined forces with Islington Army Cadets to support the recent the Honourable Artillery Company's regimental Mess dinner, held at their Finsbury barracks in London, which also plays host to the City of London VPC.



And in another act of working in partnership – City of London teamed with cadets from the Metropolitan Police Southwark VPC unit to provide members of the public around Tower Bridge and the Tower of London, with crime prevention advice around pickpocketing phone snatches and keeping their belongings safe.



VPC Teams join Hollywood stars for Marvel premiere



Thanks to our good friends at The Walt Disney Company EMEA, Volunteer Police Cadets were once again invited to support a major UK film premiere event – and had an amazing experience at BFI IMAX in London for the amazing new “Eternals” film!



Two cadet teams from Cambridgeshire and Metropolitan Police (Sutton Unit) joined together to meet key leads and others earlier in the day, where they learned about major event management, VIP hosting and security, media awareness, safety and technical support.

Having been properly briefed the cadets were then posted at various points on the blue carpet, ranging from VIP arrival meet and greet to assisting with guest entry into the venue, keeping key areas clear and observing how crowds were managed in the public areas.



Cadets saw the stars arrive and be interviewed on the blue carpet, including Angelina Jolie, Richard Madden, Gemma Chan, Salma Hayek, Lauren Ridloff and many more, with many other high-profile guests.

Sutton Head Cadet Lucy (17) said *“This has been an incredible event, seeing the stars and being part of all this! I’ve also learned so much about all the hard work and commitment that goes on behind the scenes, to make sure everything goes smoothly and safely. Amazing!”*.

Cambridgeshire High Sheriff Cadet Jade (17) said *“We’re here making a difference and working with the professional security teams; it’s been great, and everyone has been so friendly. Can’t wait to see the film now!”*.



Tim Mann, national VPC project lead, said *“I would like to thank all at the Walt Disney Company EMEA, especially senior lead Sabrina Bains, who has opened so many doors for VPC. Nothing is too much trouble and the positivity for VPC always has a big impact on cadets and leaders.”*

“Thank you, Cambridgeshire and Sutton VPCs, for a great job here as a joint group, our third major UK film premiere now which is testament to the commitment of all the VPC teams taking part. “Eternals” has taken this to a whole new level.



After a long train journey for their first major event outside the county, Cambridgeshire VPC were ready to go right from the start and with Sutton VPC, we had an incredible VPC team joining together to help Protect the Magic Thanks cadets, leaders and supporters who made this happen, you were outstanding ambassadors for both police forces and the whole VPC family!”



Operation Sceptre

Northumbria Police North Tyneside Cadets, runners up in the VPC Team award at the recent Lord Ferrers awards, have been working hard to help raise awareness of the consequences which come with carrying a weapon.

As part of Operation Sceptre – a team of four police cadets were sent out to shops across North Tyneside and Northumberland to carry out a series of test purchases supported by plain clothes police officers.

The visits were aimed at checking whether retailers were enforcing the 'No ID, No Sale' and 'Challenge 25' policy, ensuring compliance with the relevant legislation in place to protect young people from serious harm.

Out of the 18 premises visited, 15 correctly identified our underage volunteers and refused the sale. Only three failed to ask our 16-year-old cadets for any identification.

The cadets' contribution was vital in helping the Force to raise awareness of knife crime in all areas. This was a very positive operation which gave us a great opportunity to engage and educate retailers about what can happen if just one knife falls into the wrong pair of hands.



It was great to see so many shops taking positive action and putting the right measures in place to keep people safe.

The test purchases were just one of many activities being carried part of Operation Sceptre in the Northumbria Police area.

.....Meanwhile in South Tyneside

South Tyneside held an attestation night for their new Year 1 cadets and a COVID delayed attestation for their, now, Year 2's.

Held in a local theatre and attended by parents/carers and family the cadets each made an oath as they start their Cadet journey.

The event was led by Unit Leader, Gail Muizelaar, assisted by her assistant leaders.

The Cadets were given an overview of the Northumbria scheme and heard from an ex-cadet who is now a Police Constable on how the cadets had given him the skills and confidence to join.



Aged 16-25? Cadet or VPC Leader?



In partnership with:



BANK OF ENGLAND

Applications are open to join the Bank of England Youth Forum.

The Bank of England Youth Forum is a platform for young people to discuss and influence the economic and financial matters of the UK. The Forum is made up of 24 young people aged between 16 and 25 from across the country.

The Bank of England is the central bank for the whole of the United Kingdom. It is tasked with keeping prices stable (which it does partly through setting interest rates), regulating banks and building societies, and managing the printing and circulation of banknotes.

The aims of the Bank of England Youth Forum are:

- To ensure a dialogue between young people across the UK and the Bank of England
- To ensure that the Bank of England leads the way in prioritising and valuing young people's voices and their right to have a say on the decisions that affect them
- To provide a mechanism for young people to inform and influence programmes, policy, and communications at the Bank of England
- To facilitate action and change on financial and economic issues that impact young people

The Bank of England Youth Forum members have undertaken several ambitious and impactful projects over the last year including:

- Joining their local Citizens' Panels
- Creating a survey and report presented to the Chief Economist on the financial impact of Covid-19
- Reviewing existing financial education resources
- Creating a communications toolkit for the bank to consider how they reach young people
- Creating a survey and report with the Labour Market team on the 'gig' economy and zero hour contracts

Take your voice to the centre of the Bank of England.

You could be influencing the decisions of the Bank of England.

[Apply Now](#)

[Information Pack](#)



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

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