



Promoting a practical understanding of policing amongst all young people

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Encouraging the spirit of adventure and good citizenship

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Supporting local policing priorities through volunteering and giving young people a chance to be heard

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Inspiring young people to participate positively in their communities.

Welcome to the June 2024 edition of the National VPC Newsletter. This issue highlights the activities & achievements of VPC Units, Cadets, and Leaders across the Police Forces of England & Wales and as you will read, Cadets have been 'Springing' into action.

Do you have a story that can be shared with everyone? Has your Cadet unit done something to shout about?

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Lancashire's' Cadet Leader of the Year



At Lancashire Constabulary's recent Citizens in Policing Awards 2024, Ellie Beardsworth (left) became **South Division Cadet Leader of the year**.

Ellie joined as a Police Cadet in 2021 and left at the age of 18, then applied to be a Cadet Leader at Chorley & South Ribble Cadets.

Ellie has consistently attended the weekly sessions and has played a crucial role in mentoring some of the senior female cadets who have been struggling with issues at home and College, linking in with them weekly and being a fantastic listener.



Ellie has recently been successful in joining the Constabulary as a member of staff in the HQ Safer Roads Unit Department. Ellie is a fantastic role model to the Cadets, building trust, gaining confidence and building excellent relationships.



Merseyside celebrate their 2023/24 Cadets.



The **Merseyside Police Cadets** 2023/2024 programme concluded in March 2024, and they had their final ceremony for the police cadets in Liverpool.

The cadets were inspected by the Chief Constable Serana Kennedy and were presented with several certificates and awards throughout the evening.

Their volunteering over the past 12 months has contributed over 5000 operational hours, making a

massive impact in supporting the Merseyside Police Force Strategy, reducing knife crime and being great ambassadors for the organisation. The cadets started in 2023 supporting Operation Lightyear (Eurovision Song Contest 2023) which showcased the cadets worldwide!

Some of the events that the cadets have supported over the year - Fairness in Policing Scrutiny Panels, Liverpool Christmas Markets HVP, Primary school knife reduction talks, Firework test purchasing, Alcohol test purchasing, Knife test purchasing, Op Lightyear HVP, Operation Sceptre knife crime test purchasing, ASB week of action, Open Land Searches/weapon sweeps, Operation Shepherd (anti robbery Christmas HVP events), Liverpool Chinese New Year HVP, Operation Ashville hotel CSE test purchasing and training, Violence Against Woman and Girls (VAWG) events, Missing Person Unit attachments, Merseyside Community events, Police and Crime Commissioner crime prevention leaflets drops around Merseyside. School Careers events promoting the cadet's programme.....WOW!

South Wales hold first attestation in 4 years.



The young people and their families, from across our force area, were treated to the sights and sounds of the SWP Mounted Section, the Halberdiers, and the South Wales Police Band.

Both ACC Danny Richards (pictured below) and the then Police and Crime Commissioner Alun Michael addressed the assembled gathering of over 350 people. ACC Richards welcomed the PYVs and encouraged them to reflect on their promise to serve their communities and to take pride in being part of the South Wales Police family.

The first **South Wales Police Youth Volunteer Attestation Ceremony** in four years took place in the impressive surroundings of Margam Orangery (pictured left) in March.

Over 90 young people, witnessed by their families, took the Police Youth Volunteer Oath. They were then called individually onto the stage to collect their Attestation Certificates from Assistant Chief Constable Danny Richards and to have an official photograph taken.

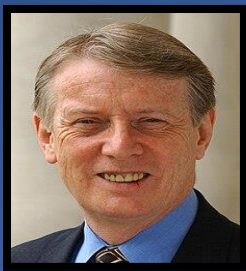


ACC Richards said,

"At its core, the Police Youth Volunteer scheme (South Wales' name for their VPC) is a simple concept. It aims to encourage 14 - 18-year-olds to be good citizens by volunteering in their communities, learning about policing and by giving young people a chance to be heard. It's a simple concept but it has

transformational effects. It transforms the young people involved. They learn new skills, gain confidence, and are exposed to unique opportunities. It transforms our PYV leaders as they engage with and learn from the perspectives of our young people who inspire and challenge them.

It transforms our communities as they become safer and more cohesive places to live." Reflecting on the event, he added "It was a privilege to formally welcome our PYVs to South Wales Police. It was a fantastic evening and a fitting way to recognise the contribution which these young people make to their communities."



Mr Michael (left) used his speech to challenge the negative image of young people often portrayed in the media and said that he found young people in today's generation to be as engaged as any that has come before.

He also encouraged the young people to take advantage of the scheme, to learn new skills, make friends and to have fun.



Blackpool & Fylde Cadets heritage project



Cadets from the **Blackpool and Fylde Unit** have been taking part in a Heritage Crime project, involving the design, development, and maintenance of a Police Memorial at the Fylde Memorial Arboretum.

The project is a result of Young Voices Heard, Historic England and the National VPC Team, coming together and encouraging police Cadet Leaders across the country to highlight the value of heritage and war memorial crime.

Blackpool and Fylde Cadets were amongst the first in the country to take on the initiative and chose to focus their efforts on the local Arboretum.

A Cadet 'Arboretum Committee' was formed at the beginning of the process, with a membership of 10 Cadets and two volunteer Cadet leaders.

A plinth was donated by the Fylde Arboretum and plaques were funded by Young Voices Heard. The plaques have been engraved with information of police officers who lost their lives whilst on duty in the Blackpool and Fylde area since 1893.

Project Lead and Volunteer Cadet Leader Steve Smith said: *"We are really proud of this project and everything that the Cadets have achieved in putting this together. All Cadets in the committee had responsibilities and tasks, which provided them with an insight into project management, introduced them to new skills and also the fulfilment of completing such a worthwhile, lasting cause."*



Cleveland Cadets awarded for prevention work.



Cleveland Police Cadets were nominated for a National Crimebeat 2024 Award by the High sheriff of North Yorkshire Clare Granger.

The nomination was in respect of their work around crime prevention and knife crime. A few of the cadets along with leaders and Citizens in Policing co-ordinators travelled to London for the event in March.

The cadets finished in the top six nationally and received a highly commended award, with a £500 prize and an open top bus trip around the landmarks of London plus a trip on the London Eye and finished with a surprise visit to 10 Downing Street as a reward for all their hard work.



It was a great experience and day out especially for the cadets some of whom had never been to London or travelled on the London Underground.



The photographs show the cadets receiving the award at the National Hotel London with Clare Granger, the visit to Number 10 and finally invited to Bolton Abbey for a ceremony for Clare Granger, the High Sheriff of North Yorkshire.

Not content with a visit to London, Cleveland Cadets also grasped the opportunity of some outdoor adventure.

Cadets enjoyed a weekend at the Carlton Adventure Camp North Yorkshire which is a great location with fantastic facilities.



The cadets had to test themselves with Jacobs Ladder and the Leap of Faith all this as well as a 6-hour hike across the Lord Wainstones rocks and surrounding hills, which seemed like mountains.

The Cadets really enjoyed the weekend and can't wait until another outdoor adventure is planned





Brighton & Hove learn water safety & clean up.



In April the **Brighton and Hove Police Cadets**, part of Sussex Police, were lucky enough to visit the RNLi centre at Newhaven. The cadets learnt about the importance of being safe in the water and heard some examples of the calls that the RNLi respond to from their partners at the coastguard.

They also learnt that if they, or someone else is in trouble in the water or near the coastline that they can call 999 and ask for the Coastguard. Cadets got special access to the RNLi lifeboat where they had a full tour seeing all of the specialist equipment they had on board.

The volunteers were happy to answer questions about the amazing work they do. A few lucky cadets even got to try on some of their kit!



And in May 2024 the Brighton and Hove Police Cadets, part of Sussex Police, hit the green spaces around Hangleton to clear it of rubbish and litter. They targeted Downland Drive, part of Hangleton Way and a footpath behind the back of Kings School.

Although there was a bit of rain, the Cadets were not deterred and managed to collect over 15 bags of rubbish. Members of the community praised the Cadets for volunteering their time and said that they made a big difference.

The Cadets plan on another litter pick next week to continue their efforts of making the city a nicer place to live.



European Cadet connections continue.



Since 2022, a unique partnership between Volunteer Police Cadets, led by the **City of London VPC** and the Metropolitan Police's **Tower Hamlets VPC**, Brussels police cadets in Belgium and Gendarmerie cadets in France, has seen Cadets and their VPC leaders had outstanding experiences and trips both in London and in Belgium.

Now the Cadets and colleagues from UK, Belgium and France have had a fantastic opportunity together in France.

The City of London & Tower Hamlets VPC's travelled to Paris, to meet their Cadet counterparts from PolBru (Brussels police) and the Gendarmerie cadets from France.

They all made lifelong memories, giving the Cadets more international experience and opportunities to learn about policing outside of the UK.



The trip was all part of the signing and ceremony of an international working agreement between City of London VPC, Metropolitan Police Tower Hamlet VPC, the Gendarmerie cadets and the Police Belgium cadets.

This paves the way for more international exchanges and future trips between the three countries.

It also allows the cadets to make friends and enhance their skills to help them in their future.

The theme of this trip was Preventing Cyber Bulling and Cyber Crime, where all cadets gave a presentation on the topic and explained what each force is doing about this topic and how to help prevent it.





Kent introduces an exciting new Cadet camping programme.

The great outdoors just got a bit more accessible for **Kent Cadets** with the launch of a new camping programme tailored for their Volunteer Police Cadets. The initiative kicked off with a fantastic Level 1 training day held on the last Saturday of April at a picturesque Scout campsite in Maidstone.



Eighteen enthusiastic cadets joined in the day's activities, guided by dedicated volunteers with a range of outdoor expertise. The training curriculum was carefully crafted to equip participants with essential camping skills.

Throughout the day, cadets delved into the fundamentals of outdoor living, mastering crucial techniques such as tent pitching (whilst blindfolded!), outdoor cooking, navigation basics, and efficiently packing expedition equipment, laying the groundwork for future adventures in the wilderness. Further training will build on these foundations to see Cadets become competent outdoors people.

The programme not only fosters camaraderie among cadets but also works towards building a sense of self-reliance and resourcefulness, in line with the programme's aims of inspiring and empowering young people in Kent. As one cadet said afterwards, "I learned lots, thoroughly enjoyed it and am looking forward to level 2!"

Hertfordshire Cadets get in on the camping habit.



Also, in April **Hertfordshire Cadets** arrived at their base for the weekend and faced their first challenge which was to carry their kit on stretchers across an obstacle course without dropping any items.

After setting up the camp, they then took part in a range of police related scenarios including stop and search, a vehicle stop, an area search with a sniffer dog, a road traffic collision and a mock domestic abuse situation which resulted in a trip to custody.





The cadets also took part in several fun team building exercises including axe throwing, water challenges and an obstacle course.

After everything they had learnt, it was time for the group to put their new skills to the test where they took part in patrolling a mock public order shift.

The following day, the cadets had to work together to come up with a plan on how to police a mock rock concert, which was then subject to a terrorist attack.

Broxbourne Cadet Leader Bob Cox said: "It was amazing to see the cadets from different groups come together and work as a team. They all worked brilliantly together and have hopefully learnt new skills which they can apply to different situations."

"Being part of the police cadets is a great way to make new friends, learn new skills and get to know your community. It is also looked positively upon when applying to college or university.

"If you know a young person who is interested in joining the Hertfordshire police cadets, or would like to find out more information, please visit: [Police cadets | Hertfordshire Constabulary \(herts.police.uk\)](https://www.herts.police.uk)."





Cadets from Warwickshire Walk 500 miles (and more....!!)

In April **Warwickshire Cadets** completed a 24-hour sponsored walk to raise money for Shine A Light Childhood Cancer Support a local charity.

The cadets took it in shifts and between all of them they managed to walk 557 miles around Police Headquarters and have raised a fantastic amount of £5,590 which is an incredible amount of money that will help so many people.



The Cadet Leaders were incredibly proud of all of them, raising money for such as good charity.

Thank you to everyone who went along to support the cadets and not forgetting the parents who got them to and from the charity walk at all hours of the day and night in the terrible weather that weekend.



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We are here for families affected by childhood cancer





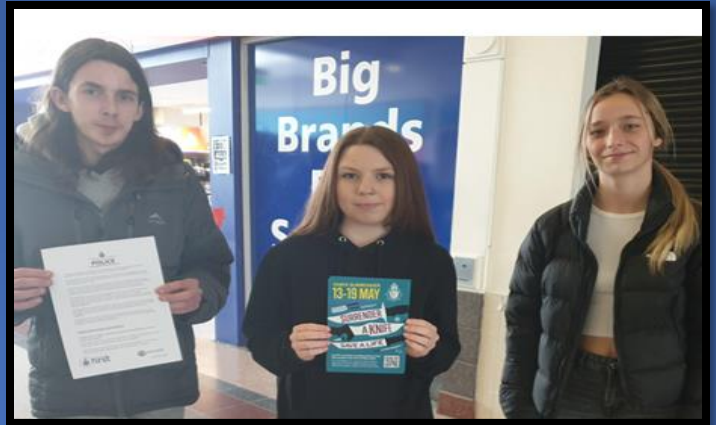
Merseyside have been busy.



During May 2024, the **Merseyside Police Cadets** have assisted with Sceptre, national knife crime week of action.

The Merseyside Police Cadets have been carrying out retailer visits across the hotspot locations of Merseyside, speaking to knife retailers and providing advice and support in relation to safe selling and displaying of knives, Challenge 25 checks, knife sale refusal logs and providing legislation updates.

The cadets also attended at retailers to speak to them about displaying knife surrender posters within their businesses, in which over 100 posters were put up in shops and businesses.



In June the Cadets were highly visible at the launch of the Queen Anne in Liverpool and met celebrities such as Katarina Johnson-Thompson (pictured far left with Cadets) actor Celia Imrie, and they got a wave off Posh Spice!

The cadets then took part in our annual Valuing Volunteers event in the presence of the Chief Constable and the Police & Crime Commissioner celebrating volunteers across Merseyside Police and assisted at the She Inspires football event, meeting players from the Liverpool FC Women's team.

The cadets have also taken part in the force's inaugural YIAG (Young Independent Advisory Group), taken part in a scrutiny panel around stop and search, as well as assisting at an emergency services event in which over 100 children with additional needs were in attendance. The cadets rounded off their busy time with a visit to Barton airfield base in Barton to learn about the aircraft at NPAS.



Sussex PCSO feels benefit of support from VPC.



In May Crawley Police Community Support Officer Chandler was supported by **Crawley VPC** at a community event in the town's Memorial Gardens and the Cadets certainly made a big impression.

PCSO CHANDLER said -

"I had the very great pleasure of working with the Crawley (VPC) and it was a day where my faith in humanity was well and truly restored. The event was called BACKstage, run annually and was a free event to celebrate local music, dance art and food in the Memorial Gardens in Crawley.

The sun was out, and we were sited close to the bandstand where the performers put on demonstrations of their particular craft.



As the Town PCSO it was my opportunity as a Sussex Police representative to be available and interact with the Community that we serve. The VPC were drafted in by PC Tichband to help with this event and they were an absolute testament to the positive input that the Cadets have on those around them.

They were all exceptionally well turned out assisting with all the demands that were placed on upon them. They, for example, helped families and their children look around the Police Vehicles, dressing up as Police Officers, handing out stickers and information leaflets plus many other useful bits of assistance to keep our interactions with the public going. No one was left unattended.



I spend much of my time in Memorial Gardens and I can have a much less positive experience, but this was entirely different thanks to the generous support given by the VPC.

It's a well done to them all and I hope I get to work with them all again in the future."

Cadets across all Police Forces attend local community events to offer support both to Neighbourhood Policing Teams but also to local community groups. They always carry out their task with enthusiasm and a smile !

Nottingham VPC support local charity.



In May, 4 of **Nottinghamshire's Police Cadets** attended the Bags of Blessings Spring Fair in order to show their support for Bags of Blessings, a charity local to Nottingham, who distribute donated gifts to deprived young people across Nottinghamshire.

The Police Cadets assisted with the running of stalls, such as the teddy bear tombola, whilst also supporting local PCSOs in showcasing a Police vehicle to both the children and adults in attendance at the event.

Thank you to the Police Cadets and Police Cadet Leaders who attended on the day and well done for all your hard work.



And in June three of Nottinghamshire's Police Cadets attended the Pretty Muddy Race for life event held at Holme Pierpont National Waters Sports Centre.

In the morning, the Police Cadets supported other event volunteers present at the start line with the three waves of children runners and seven waves of adult runners. The Cadets assisted in guiding the runners down to the start line after completing their warmup, counting down to the beginning of the race, and cheering the participants across the start line.

Once all waves had been completed, the Cadets and Leaders carried out some community engagement with the members of the public.

The Police Cadets showed members of the public how the sirens and lights on the police cars operate and allowed them to try on items of Police uniform.



North Wales support force activity



North Wales Assistant Chief Constable Gareth Evans hosted Cuppa & Cake at North Wales Police HQ as part of National Volunteers week with assistance from **North Wales VPC**.

Cadets across North Wales joined NPT teams to conduct test purchase operations in relation to the sale of underage bladed articles and assisted in putting safer street packs together and delivering them to communities.



Great Yarmouth Cadets raise funds for Air Ambulance



Great Yarmouth Police Cadets have been doing some amazing work over the last 6 months, raising money for THE EAST ANGLIAN AIR AMBULANCE.



The Cadets kicked off their fundraising efforts with a Family Christmas Bingo Night.

They held an Easter Egg Raffle and created and sold puzzle books!

A Cadet Leader (PC Heather WRIGHT) and Police Cadet Alfie HOWELLS finished the fundraising in style; they completed a skydive!



In total they have raised £2,072. In May they attended THE EAST ANGLIAN AIR AMBULANCE base in Norwich for a tour and to present the money.



Gwent Cadets create art

A few years ago, Newport City Council offered one of their large walls underneath the M4 motorway to become a tolerated street art wall. It was the first in Newport and was very well received with some amazing artwork being on display. The walls come with a few basic rules for the artists to follow, and have been respected by each of the artists who attend to paint... In November 2023, one of the local Councillors in Newport, offered the services of **Gwent VPC** for a 2nd area that was being planned in Newport.



This area identified is called Jacks Wharf and is part of the Riverside Walk on the Pill side of the River Usk, Newport. This Dry Dock dates back to the early 1800's, but has sadly become a derelict area of Newport, being owned by Newport City Homes, who have yet been able to re-develop the area. For years, metal, corrugated sheets have been placed around the outside of the walk, and has been a target for tagging, generic graffiti mixed in with some hate remarks too.

Newport City Council arranged for Gwent VPC to assist in covering up the graffiti, pictured left, in order to create the 2nd Tolerated Street Art and agreed for the Gwent force crest and VPC logo to be added to a sign which will be erected in the near future (picture top right).



The Cadets that volunteered for this (Tobias, Rae, Annabelle, Gareth, Ryan & Eloise) did amazingly well! Along with VPC Leader Alex, they managed to paint over 100 metres of the corrugated metal which was about 2.5m in height in the space of 3 hours, to provide a blank canvas for any artist who wishes to use the space.



The Cadets had a great time doing this and had members of the public stopping as they were working, thanking them for covering it up. All in all, a great project and they, and we, are looking forward to seeing what is going to be displayed very soon.

West Mercia Cadets locked up.



Around 50 intrepid Cadets and Leaders from all 5 **West Mercia VPC** cohorts braved an overnight stay in the former HMP Shrewsbury which closed in 2013.

Cadets were taken on a history tour of the prison in the dark which included many a ghost story and a special trip into the Georgian underground cells. They learned about life in prison through the ages as well as the process of carrying out executions.

Following the tours we were then locked in and given free run of the whole prison for the night.

Team building exercises, quizzes and plenty of hide and seek got them through the night. Following breakfast, they emerged blinking into the daylight on their release!

Plenty of sleepy heads on the minibuses home!



Dartford VPC help tackle dangerous riding.

There is a Public Space Protection Order in the local area of Dartford and continual breaches of riding e-scooters in pedestrian areas have been regularly taking place. This is not only illegal to do so but dangerous to individuals walking through the town. There have been near misses and so the Council and local officers took action to tackle this issue.

Dartford VPC cadets were invited to support Dartford Borough Council, Community Safety Unit and local Beat Officers in May to help tackle nuisance and illegal e-scooters.

Dartford Cadets and leaders provided support, a visible presence, educating members of public around the use of e-scooters, the risks and consequences. 7 e-scooters were seized, £100 fines were issued, and some scooters were taken away for destruction, but the main point was around getting the message across about the dangers of using these.

Cadets handed out leaflets regarding the law on owning an e-scooter but also took the opportunity to talk about their time as a cadet, the benefits of joining up and asking young people to add their names to the waiting list and join an ever-growing team of cadets in Kent.





VPC Units in Lincolnshire have been busy.

Cadets from **Bourne VPC** had a few visits from guest speakers this term, including a surveillance expert, Lowlands Search and Rescue, and our Assistant Chief Constable for Citizens in Policing.

They also travelled further afield and visited the Police Museum in Manchester learning about the origins of the modern police service, Victorian crime and punishment, and took part in a mock trial.



Skegness VPC have been busy working alongside Magna Vitae (a local health and fitness facility).

They have also been learning about using police radios and pocket notebooks, and ensuring the roads of Skegness are that bit safer by completing speed checks. (Pictured right).



Cadets from **Boston VPC** took a trip over to Sleaford to visit Lincolnshire Police's interactive knife crime facility The Happening (pictured above).

It is an immersive, educational experience that aims to prevent and divert young people away from carrying a knife and being involved in serious violence. It aims to challenge thinking, capture the reality, and look to dispel the myths and remove the glamour that is spoken about openly within young people's lives and social media streams.

The project has been built within the station's old custody suite and has seen a number of rooms converted into state-of-the-art spaces centred around knife crime.



It's been no less busy for Cadets in Northumbria.....



Cadet from three VPC units, **North Tyneside**, **Northumberland**, and **Gateshead** united to support race organisers for the Newcastle-Gateshead Marathon, Half Marathon & 10K event by crewing a water station outside of the iconic Gateshead International Stadium, along the race route. It was an early start to a long day in awful weather conditions for cadets and runners alike, however cadets showed great resilience and acted professionally throughout. Good work team!

As the culmination of **North Tyneside** & **Northumberland** VPC units Bite Back project, to challenge prejudices around food poverty, the Cadets were out in force at the local Aldi supermarket in Northumberland Park. Cadets promoted the menu for donations to match the meal menu cards they'd previously designed and collected food donations to match meal ingredients. Donations were then bagged up into meal packs before being delivered to the local food bank. Brilliant work to all involved.



Cadets from **South Tyneside** VPC represented the force at the local council's D-Day anniversary ceremony. South Tyneside joined other local communities throughout the UK and France to remember D-Day and light a beacon on Thursday 6 June to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day and pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Activities took place on the Lawe Top and included singers, a proclamation, and a specially written poem.

A procession of boats including RNLI, Sea Cadets, fishing boats also passed just off the Little Haven Beach to mark the occasion.

Cadets from the **Sunderland VPC** unit teamed up with the Neighbourhood Policing Team to support the Motorcycle Disorder team and Sunderland Council with work on Operation Capio. Cadets assisted with a leaflet drop to promote crime prevention advice around Motorcycle disorder.





Volunteer Police Cadets

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 –

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SCAN ME