



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
Christmas 2024 edition of the
National VPC Newsletter.
Highlighting the activities &
achievements of VPC Units,
Cadets, and Leaders
across the Police Forces of England
& Wales.**

**We hope all our Cadets & Leaders
have a great Christmas!**



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

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Kent VPC gain Royal approval



A prestigious national award has been given to **Kent's Volunteer Police Cadet** programme in recognition of its outstanding volunteering achievements.



The scheme, which was established in 2015, has been awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service for 2024 - the highest honour a voluntary group can receive in the UK and equivalent to a collective MBE.

Announced on 14 November 2024, to mark HM The King's birthday, the award recognises outstanding work by volunteer groups and the support they provide their communities.

Chief Constable of Kent Police Tim Smith said:

'Our cadets and their leaders are valuable members of the Kent Police family, providing vital support to my officers as well as the communities they serve. Cadet life is all about challenge, excitement and adventure and it is a testament to their achievements and their cadet leaders that they have been recognised with the highest honour a voluntary group can be awarded.'

'Our cadets get the opportunity to contribute to policing and see first-hand what goes into a career of service, as well as learning from how our regular colleagues, special constables and police staff all serve the people of Kent. I speak on behalf of everyone associated with Kent Police when I say how proud we are of our cadets and their leaders for this fantastic achievement.'



Kent Police's Director of Citizens in Policing Gavin McKinnon OBE, who oversees the cadet programme said:

'Being part of the cadets is about encouraging young people to understand what it means to be good citizens. It is not a scheme to recruit police officers of the future, but a platform for young people to learn and help them have a successful career, whatever industry that may be in.'

'Our cadets are learning valuable and transferrable life skills, becoming skilled at decision making, and creating friendships and memories. The cadet program, thanks entirely to the work of our cadet leaders, gives the cadets an edge in life, and in some cases gives them hope and encouragement to achieve their potential. I'm so proud of the contribution from every cadet, cadet leader and everyone who works behind the scenes to ensure the success of the scheme. There is no higher form of recognition than that from His Majesty The King, and as we approach the 10th year of our cadet program in Kent this is a very fitting tribute to everyone who has given so much to make it deserving of this award for excellence.'

Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott said:

'I have been delighted to support the cadets since my election. It provides fantastic opportunities for young people across our county and the results speak for themselves.' I congratulate the leaders and young people involved for this honour for which they can be very proud.'

A Legend of Service & Hearts

Our **Cadet Leaders** are the backbone of the VPC, without them schemes would not be able to operate. Police Officers, Police Staff and Volunteers from outside policing give many hours, many in their own time, to run their units.

Leaders can have a big influence and impact on the young people they engage which can resonate a young person for life.

The following poem was sent to us by a Force VPC coordinator - written by a 9yr old Junior Volunteer Police Cadet about one of their leaders, due to retire.

A Legend of Service and Hearts

*For decades long, with badge in hand,
J stood as strength across the land.
With courage fierce and spirit bold,
A living legend, a heart of gold.*

*She walked the streets, she led the fight.
A beacon burning through the night.
But beyond the duty and the call,
She gave her heart, she gave her all.*

*To every cadet she led with care,
She was more than a mentor-she was rare.
A guiding star, a steady hand,
She helped young dreams to boldly stand.*

*Through every child she helped to grow.
Her wisdom lit the way to show
That strength is kindness, power is grace,
In every challenge we must face.*

*And for the families by her side,
She offered love, a source of pride.
Her care ran deep, her heart so wide,
A friend, a force, a trusted guide.*

*Now comes the day to close this door.
But her legacy will rise and soar.
Her love, her impact, all she gave,
Will echo on, strong and brave.*

*J, a name to praise.
Her life's work shines, like sunlit rays.
A warrior, mentor, friend so true,
In every heart, she'll see us through.*

*Her legend lives, her spirit grand,
In every child who takes a stand.
Her years of service, unmatched, divine.
She leaves behind a brilliant shine.*

*So here's to J, a hero's rest,
She's earned her peace, she gave her best.
Her love, her light, will never dim-
For we all carry a part of her within...*

By, A VPC Cadet, Aged 9





Warwickshire Leaders recognised

Warwickshire VPC Leaders, PC Marston, PC Lund and PCSO Williams (pictured right) have been awarded a Chief Constable Commendation each to recognise their dedication, commitment & enthusiasm that has developed and ensured the success of the Warwickshire Police Cadets



Humberside award Leader dedication

In November, **Humberside** hosted their Excellence in Policing Awards where Cadet Leaders based in Humberside were nominated for the category of Volunteers of the Year.



Whilst they did not win, they were the runners up.

Six cadet units are supported by a team of **dedicated volunteer police cadet leaders**. They support the young people in the cadet scheme all year round. Their commitment to teaching, creating opportunities, and supporting the cadets is unwavering. Without them, Humberside would not be able to provide the scheme and their dedication is seeing their units go from strength to strength.

From lesson planning, safeguarding, teaching, arranging trips, finding guest speakers and so much more, the cadet leaders are the backbone of the cadet scheme.

Humberside also recognise their Cadets



Humberside also hosted their Cadet Attestation for the new intake. Assistant Chief Constable Mike Walker formally welcomed 46 young people into Humberside Police as they took to the stage to state their commitment to the Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme by taking their official oath.

The cadets were joined by family and friends to celebrate and recognise the hard work they have put into completing their initial training since beginning the induction process back in August.

After taking the oath the Cadets will now have a variety of different duties. They will continue to be committed to attending a two-hour lesson each week, as well as volunteering at local events and activities around the force to support community teams, train new recruits.

The Cadets will assist with various youth engagement projects and more.



Community Engagement Coordinator Katie Hardy, who is the force lead for the cadets, added: *"It is always wonderful to see the cadets stand up in front of their guests and commit to the cadet scheme."*

"Everyone involved in the programme has worked very hard to make a difference to those young people who join us and it's brilliant that the scheme is supported by so many people inside and outside of Humberside Police".

This year also saw the presentation of 2 awards for current cadets. The Liz Smith Award for those who have shown Community Spirit and Cadet of the Year.

PC Graham Smith presented the Liz Smith Award in memory of his mother PCSO Liz Smith who was a much loved Cadet Leader in Bridlington, to **Cadet Lucy Cowles** of the **Hull Unit** (ACC Walker, Pc Smith and Cdt Cowles pictured right).



Lucy has been committed to giving the best to her community through supporting local events, supporting her fellow cadets and working hard to give all young people a voice by representing them at various Independent Advisory Groups.



The recipient of Cadet of the Year for 2024 is **Cadet Ruby Hudson** from the **Bridlington Unit**. Pictured left receiving her award from ACC Walker.

Ruby has worked tirelessly to show strength over adversity and has led by example giving those around her the knowledge and confidence to deal with challenging situations with positivity and





High praise for Durham police cadets

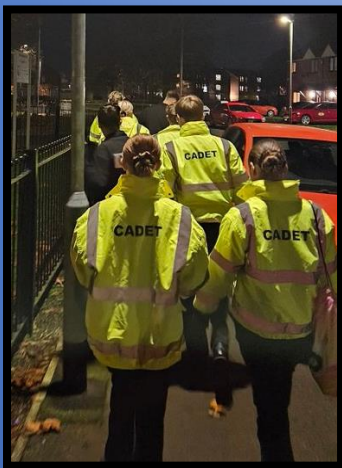
Volunteer police cadets from **Durham**, playing a pivotal role in reassuring communities impacted by anti-social behaviour have received high praise from Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen.

The cadets are supporting the delivery of a national trailblazer pilot providing 'hotspot' enforcement patrols across 34 communities with long-running issues with anti-social behaviour (ASB) and disorder.



As part of the multiagency operation, the cadets have delivered more than 1,000 leaflets advising residents how to report ASB and where to access support. They have also participated in engagement events hosted by the PCC throughout the summer and provided a uniformed presence in communities at times when ASB is more prevalent.

Their work has already been held as a beacon of best practice and shared nationally with other force areas, and led to them being awarded the Durham Difference Award for Volunteer of the Year 2024.



The PCC (pictured above with Cadets) recently nominated the cadets for a national CrimeBeat Award to reflect their professionalism and dedication and is highlighting their contribution as part of her work to promote Anti-social Behaviour Awareness Week, which ran from 18th to 24th November.

Commissioner Allen said: *"I could not be prouder of our cadets and the huge role they are playing in reassuring our communities."*

"They have demonstrated confidence and resourcefulness beyond their years and have built such a rapport with residents and businesses, that people in other areas beyond the hotspots have requested further information about the work we are doing to improve the response to ASB."

"I am so grateful for the willingness of the cadets to give up their time to support the ASB project and for the fantastic job they have done to increase confidence in reporting of these issues as well as promoting and personally endorsing the sense of community that our county needs to remain resilient to crime. The idea for this project was put forward by the cadets themselves and they have enjoyed seeing the positive impact they are having on victims of ASB. Their creativity is endless, and their energy boundless. County Durham and Darlington is very fortunate to have them onboard."

Through their involvement in the pilot, they have developed problem solving skills, learned how to identify and reach those affected ASB and have honed their communication skills to understand and record key crime priorities for the public while assisting with their concerns.





Lest we forget

Every year VPC units from across all Police Forces attend Remembrance Day parades to honour those who have fallen in conflict. This year was no different.

Cadets attended local events at Cenotaphs all over, a contingent of VPC also took part in the national parade in London. The contingent was made up of Cadets from **Cleveland, Dorset, Thames Valley** and **Cambridgeshire**, who all took up the invite from the British Legion to be part of the youth section of the parade (pictured right.)

One Cadet from Dorset said, "It was a huge honour to participate in such a special day and represent my unit and Dorset, something which I am very proud of and will never forget. What a great surprise it was to find out we would be leading out the Cadets! Seeing the veterans and marching past Prince William were also very memorable moments."

Cadets from across VPC schemes are shown below at their local parades.





Wiltshire and Avon & Somerset Cadets get a BOOST!

In November, 16 cadets and 3 leaders from **Avon & Somerset** and 10 cadets and 6 leaders from **Wiltshire Police** travelled through Storm Bert to visit Gloucestershire Constabulary and experience the 'Boost Programme'.



Boost is a self-leadership programme for young people aged 10-18. It is offered to all schools in Gloucestershire and is funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The programme is called Boost because it's designed to do just that - give young people a boost of confidence. It is designed to teach skills for life, whatever the background or circumstances of the young people taking part. It is not designed to solve all problems - it is designed to be a boost!



The programme was divided into five modules.

- Emotional regulation
- Self-Compassion
- Building relationships
- Self-Care



Cadets and leaders learned about the functions of the brain and how using calming techniques such as box or star breathing can increase resilience in times of difficulty or stress.

Cadets were also encouraged to share their own experiences and practice kindness and understanding

others through the use of 'check ins' and sharing positive feedback with their peers and others.

Wiltshire Police Cadets Evie, Charlie, George and Lottie said 'It was an amazing opportunity to meet with the cadets from another force'. Martyn Garrett, Cadet Coordinator from Gloucestershire Constabulary agreed 'It is always amazing to see the Cadets working together but this was something special. Two groups of Cadets from different Forces working alongside each other, brought together by the big blue Cadet family. This is what the VPC is all about, giving young people skills not only they can use themselves but skills they can pass on.'

The Cadets that travelled to Gloucester will be sharing the skills and knowledge that they have learned with the rest of the cadets in their units when they deliver their own input about the Boost programme in the new year.



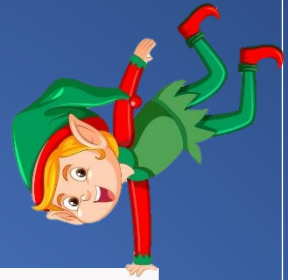
Lord Ferrers Awards 2024



Cadets and Leaders triumphed at the recent Lord Ferrers Awards held in London at the start of December.

In the grand setting of the De Vere Connaught Rooms central London, volunteers in policing were recognised and celebrated.

Winners of the Volunteer Police Cadet Team award were the **Wealden Unit** from **Sussex Police** for their innovative and impactful Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) initiative.



The Cadets' program was developed to address a gap in education for Year 11 students in rural Wealden schools. Recognising that many young people were not receiving any guidance from police-led initiatives as they prepared to leave school, the Cadets designed a project to provide valuable information and resources. Their initiative focused on rural areas, which are often overlooked in VAWG-related campaigns due to the perception that risks are concentrated in larger towns and cities.

The Cadets took an active role in every stage of the project. They crafted a presentation that was delivered to 760 male and female students across schools in the district. Female students were provided with information packs containing resources on topics such as domestic abuse, stalking, sexual assault, and drink spiking, as well as practical tools like drink covers, bottle stoppers, and personal safety alarms. Male students were included in the initiative, receiving guidance on their role in promoting positive change, supporting peers, and being upstanders who can challenge harmful behaviours.

Representatives from the team, Cadets Holly, Lydia, Joshua, Sid, and Christopher, along with Cadet Leaders PC Ian Codling and PC Aaron Gasson, attended the ceremony in London to accept the award. (pictured right).

This recognition adds to a growing list of accolades for the Wealden Cadets in 2024, including being named Runner-Up in the National Police Chiefs' Council VAWG and Op Soteria Recognition Awards and receiving a Commended Award from National Crimebeat under the Association of High Sheriffs



Rachel Swinney, Local Policing Superintendent for East Sussex, said: "We are incredibly proud of the Wealden Volunteer Police Cadets for their tireless work addressing such an important issue. This award is a testament to the incredible impact volunteers have on our communities, giving up their own time and energy to make a real difference in the lives of others."

West Yorkshire visit the National Memorial Arboretum



Kirklees Cadets from West Yorkshire Police visited The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire as part of their preparations for Remembrance Day.

On arrival at the Arboretum, they were met by Staffordshire Police Cadet Leaders Sgt Jamie Gotheridge, PC Alex Clayton-Tang and Theresa Brazil, as well as two of their Cadets.

They escorted the Cadets to the UK Police Memorial, and explained the concept of the imposing sculpture. They then showed them "The Beat" - a row of trees, each one representing a Police Force.

After lunch, the Cadets had some time to explore the Arboretum in small groups with the tasks of coming back with which memorial they found the most impactful and why, and a fact they'd learned throughout the day.

This cohort of Cadets has only been with West Yorkshire since September (West Yorkshire runs a 2 Year Cohort programme) and this was a lovely way to team build, and to help them put Remembrance into context.

The singing and chatting on the minibus on the way back to West Yorkshire proved that they had done some great teambuilding!



West would really encourage other Cadet groups to visit The National Memorial Arboretum, not only to remember our own fallen colleagues within the Police, but for those in the other Emergency Services, the Military and the countless others who are represented there. It's such a calm and peaceful place, and beautiful all year round.





Warwickshire Cadets remember Road Traffic Victims



Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership Remembers

We will never forget the individuals whose lives have been lost on our roads.

Cadets from **Warwickshire** attended the extremely moving service at Old Shire Hall in Warwick in Warwickshire. It was well attended by the community, including Warwickshire ACC Ben SMITH, The High Sheriff of

Warwickshire, Tim COX the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner and Deputy, Warwickshire Road safety partnership and the charity Brake.

The Big Sing choir did a fantastic job singing several songs to everyone during different parts of the service and it was very moving to hear from two guest speakers about their experiences.



Hampshire rise to the challenge



Cadets from the **Hampshire VPC** units gathered at HMS Excellence for the highly anticipated annual Cadet Connaught Challenge.

Representing Hampshire's finest, Cadets from the Air cadets, Sea cadets and RAF Cadet forces, alongside Hampshire & Isle of Wight VPC came together in a series of competitive challenges designed to test their skills, teamwork and resilience

This event was presented by the Connaught Trust & Committee and the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, alongside distinguished VIP representatives from each Cadet Force.

It was a true celebration of dedication, discipline and the vibrant spirit of youth in service.





Herts VPC build on special relationship

Earlier this year **East Herts** Police Cadets hosted the Montgomery County Police Explorers from the United States. The Police Explorers is a similar scheme to the VPC operated in the U.S.



The visit built upon a relationship forged in 2023 when 6 Hertfordshire Cadets and 4 leaders were lucky enough to take a trip to Washington DC to meet with the Montgomery County Police Department.

The trip was fantastic and the experiences incredible. It was a jam packed week, visiting and learning so much about their different Police departments, interacting with officers within them and learning about how they solve crime. Within the week they also fitted in sightseeing and a theme park!



The police related activities included, but were not limited to:

- A visit to the FBI headquarters
- Meeting the Parks Police with an opportunity to ride police horses
- Experiencing the Montgomery County Training Centre which included experiencing their driving school, including being in the cars during a pursuit and being involved in a practice firearms scenario
- A night with the Montgomery County Police Explorers
- A visit to Montgomery County Police Department HQ to see their crime scene unit, robbery and homicide unit and public relations
- Meeting the Police Chief
- A chance to see a Police Dog Demonstration
- A visit to the Police Memorial



A quote from the cadets to sum up the trip:

'It was a mad week with a lot of ups and a lot of downs, but with many good memories. Everyone really loved it. Can't wait to see them all next year.'

That return visit happened this year where East Herts VPC were able to give their U.S counterparts an insight into policing in the UK. The Explorers attended a cadet night, where they were able to join in with a session and interact with the police cadets, sharing different experiences in their programme and our programme.

Other visits included:

- A visit to the underground bunker at Hatfield Police Station
- Meeting Chief Constable Charlie Hall
- Visiting the car workshop at Headquarters and being shown the various types of vehicles used by police in Hertfordshire
- A visit to St Albans Cathedral.
- A visit to the Force Control Room to learn about call taking and dispatching and how the room operates
- Trip to Windsor Castle
- Day trip in Cambridge including a must have trip on a punt river tour!



The week finished with a day out in London. We took the explorers and their leaders to visit the tower of London.

They went for a ride on the Thames Clipper to see Parliament, to the National Police Memorial, to New Scotland Yard for photos with the iconic sign and a lucky photo with two firearms officers, to Buckingham Palace and finally to finish off, some shopping in Oxford Street.

The Explorers also got a behind the scenes look at a rehearsal for a military music event on Horse Guards Parade where we were taken beyond the barriers by a kind Metropolitan Police Sergeant.





Lancashire reach new heights

During the October school holidays Lancashire Police Cadets from the EAST units, **Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Pendle and Hyndburn VPC** enjoyed two days of group outdoor activities at Whitehough activity centre in Barley, Lancashire.



The Cadets challenged themselves to overcome some fears with the high equipment such as Jacobs ladder and the leap of Faith then put their brainpower and teamworking skills to the test in the problem solving area.

The weather was extremely kind to us for the time of year and everybody got stuck into the activities and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Once again, thanks goes to the attendance of fantastic voluntary leaders, without them these days couldn't take place.



North Worcestershire Cadets support High Sheriff



Cadets from West Mercia's **North Worcestershire VPC** unit have been supporting the High Sheriff over the last couple of months.

The first event took place in October where they attended Worcester Cathedral to support the High Sheriff in his shrieval ceremony and form part of the "Blue Light" services in attendance.



Together with **South Worcestershire** Cadets and also Hereford and Worcester Fire Cadets they formed a Guard of honour to welcome various dignitaries.



They were then proud that two of the Cadets were chosen to take part in the judge's procession.



Still in October the Cadets had the opportunity to attend Worcester Crown and County Court and view some of the cases in Court that day. They were escorted on their trip by the High Sheriff who explained the protocol of the Court and outlined the type of cases heard at the Crown Court.

They also visited Kidderminster Magistrates Court. Cadets sat in the Court and observed a variety of cases, including a male suspected of murder remanded into prison custody and a case where the defendant was accused of breaching a Slavery Trafficking Prevention Order. This relatively new piece of legislation was interesting to understand and very apt in the current climate.

In November the Cadet left the safety of North Worcestershire and travelled to the Shropshire border where they were once more pleased to assist the High Sheriff with one of his fundraising projects at 'The Regal Theatre' in Tenbury Wells.

Cadets welcomed local dignitaries attending the event many of who recognised our young people from previous events and were delighted to see them again. And once the reception was over everyone moved into the main theatre where they were in for a treat!



Dr John BODKIN ADAMS and Dr Harold SHIPMAN were allegedly responsible for over 400 murders between them. Leading Forensic Psychiatrist, Dr Andrew JOHNS and General Practitioner, Dr Harry BRUNJES, dissected and discussed why these notorious doctors turned from medicine to murder in this unique and fascinating medical consultation.

Cadets in Lincolnshire celebrate



Cadets across **Lincolnshire VPC** celebrated completing their induction and refresher training and were presented with certificates by leaders and officers.



Cadet sessions have included a variety of subjects delivered by the Leaders, including, getting to grips with a variety of PSU kit and learning about stop and search.



There have been further opportunities for cadets to support events and their communities through extra duties such as leaflet drops, an emergency services day, a family day held by British Orienteering, and visits to an interactive knife crime learning experience The Happening.





Kent run to raise money



Well done to the **Dartford cadets** who turned out on a morning in October to represent their unit in their Ellenor fund-raising appeal.



Following on from this, the Dartford cadets were visited during the unit session in December 2024, by Tina Dyson from the Ellenor Hospice to thank the unit for raising £379.80 from the Dartford Park Run.

A massive well done to those who took part and hopefully they can do this again in the spring !



Nottinghamshire wrap it



During December all five of **Nottinghamshire VPC** units have taken part in supporting a local charity, Bags of Blessings, in wrapping bags of presents for young people from disadvantaged areas around Nottinghamshire.



All the Cadets got involved with wrapping presents, humming along to the Christmas tunes, and did an all-round amazing job!



Force Headquarters wrapped 74 bags in total, with **Bestwood** wrapping 78 bags and **Hyson Green** achieving 86. **Bulwell** excelled themselves, wrapping 87 bags with only a handful of Cadets present! With a much larger contingent in **Mansfield**, they comfortably wrapped 120 bags. Astounding work from all the Cadets involved!



In total, 1780 individual presents were wrapped, which is almost 25% of Bags of Blessings output for the Christmas period.

The Cadets should all be really pleased with themselves, and we can't wait to see if you can beat the high scores for presents wrapped next year!





Met Cadets provide Tea Dance support

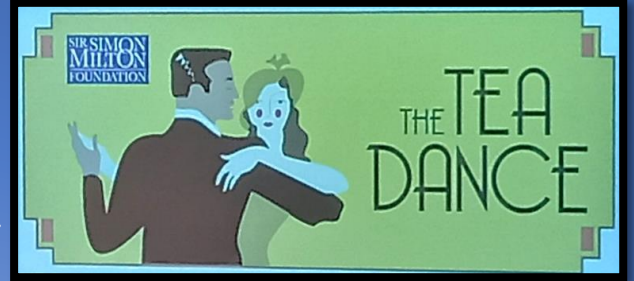
Redbridge, Barking & Dagenham, Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington, Chelsea & Westminster VPC did an outstanding job representing the Metropolitan Police by supporting the Sir Simon Milton's Foundation in their Annual Tea Dance for the over 65's at the Grosvenor Hotel, London.

The Cadets worked tirelessly engaging with the guest making sure they were safe, happy and dancing the afternoon away.

This amazing Intergenerational Project shows that the young cadets are an asset in showing community engagement and are our future generation.

They received a massive round of applause when being thanked by the organisers. Well done to all of you.

As you can see Staff (pictured far right) also managed a cheeky dance with his favourite dancer Angela Rippon at the event !





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 –

vpc.admin@vpc.police.uk

