



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 2026 edition of the National VPC newsletter. This action-packed edition highlights the activities & achievements of VPC Units, Cadets, and Leaders across the VPC in supporting Police Forces & Communities whilst developing young people

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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Essex Cadets help shape the future.



Volunteer Police Cadets from five **North Essex** units came together for a Body Worn Video IAG session, and once again, their insight proved invaluable. The room fell silent as the first stop and search clip began.

The cadets weren't focused on procedure or legislation. They were focused on something far more important to young people - *how the interaction felt*.

The Cadets' understanding of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) and police powers is still developing, but their perspectives are essential. They notice professionalism. They notice whether explanations are clear. They notice if reassurance is offered at the right moment. And they speak openly about how they would feel in the shoes of the person being stopped. Even when the procedure is technically correct, they aren't afraid to say when something doesn't sit right.

The feedback given by the Cadets helps see policing through the eyes of young people — a viewpoint often missing from formal training environments. It is challenging, grounding, and reminds policing that public confidence depends not only on what is done, but how it is done.

VPC leaders sourced the footage, explaining the procedures, helping keep the conversations flowing, giving up another of their evenings to help run this session - as with everything in cadets, a real team effort.



Nearly two years on from launching these panels, the influence of the Cadets continues to shape training and professional development across Essex Police. The cadets' voices are helping build a more empathetic, transparent, and community focused future for policing in our county.

Celebrating dedication, resilience, & growth

Essex also held their Duke of Edinburgh's Award presentation, which was a fantastic celebration of dedication, resilience, and personal growth.

Each participant demonstrated what it truly means to push beyond comfort zones, embrace challenge, and commit to meaningful goals.



From volunteering and physical achievements to skill-building and adventurous expeditions, every award earned represents months of hard work and determination.

A huge congratulations to all recipients of Bronze and Silver Awards. Their achievements are something to be incredibly proud of, and it is inspiring to see their journeys recognised.



Gwent with a dash of colour



St David's Hospice asked **Gwent VPC** for help for several events, one of which is the Kolor Dash. It's held once in Newport each year and once in Cwmbran.

The Cadets were one of the first groups invited to host a paint station at each of the events, and every year it's a massive YES!

4 of the Cadets from our Newport unit assisted at this year's race, throwing powdered paint at all of the runners, all in aid of raising money for an amazing charity!



What better way of spending a Saturday than covering yourself in bright pink and orange powder! Roll on the next one in Cwmbran later in the year.



Cumbria get tactical.

Cumbria Cadets recently took part in a Tactical training day.

The day saw cadets from each unit (Workington, Carlisle, Penrith, Kendal and Barrow) all be invited to attend Cumbria Police HQ at Penrith and take part in a full day Tactical Training Day.



Events included:

- Training on knife crime
- A visit from the volunteer mounted staff
- Opportunity to fly a drone
- A visit to firearms
- A visit to the brand-new dog section kennels and to meet a new puppy recruit.
- A visit to the comms centre



Cadets spent the day learning about what the operational support departments do and hopefully gained an awareness of some of the tactical deployments that Cumbria Police can offer. A great day was had by all!



Thames Valley remember GMP Cadet Alyssa

In April the Volunteer Police Cadet family tragically lost 15-year-old Cadet Alyssa Ashcroft (pictured right) who passed away after a short battle with cancer on Sunday 12 April 2026.

A colour scheme in her honour was requested by Alyssa's family at her funeral, dark blue, purple and green.

On seeing this, Cadets from Thames Valley VPC wanted to do something nice for her cadet unit in Greater Manchester, in her memory.

South Bucks VPC unit used Alyssa's favourite colours and made their own 'Cadet Thin Blue Line' around love hearts as badges and also created a keepsake for her unit.



TVP Cadets also raise funds for their Charity of the Year

Windsor and Maidenhead Police Cadets' nominated Thames Hospice as their charity of the year.

They engaged in fundraising events such as a 5k fun run, and a 10k walk that turned into 14k due to the closure of a footbridge over the Thames.

An auction themed on the TV show Bargain Hunt will take place at Windsor Auction House, Cadets bought items totalling £200 from antique and charity shops hoping to make a profit for the cause.



As part of the **Trunks Across the Thames** initiative Cadets decorated an elephant which will be on display with others on a trail in Slough and Windsor over the Summer.

The larger elephants will be auctioned off to raise money whereas our elephant 'Justice' will be returned to TVP.

Cadets put some words together for the plaque:

Justice

'Justice' was decorated by Windsor and Maidenhead Volunteer Police Cadets. It represents victims of crime including the violence faced by women and girls. It highlights the values of the Police Cadets and their code of ethics. The Police Cadets are proud to say, 'we raised money for Thames Hospice'.

At present Windsor and Maidenhead Police Cadets have raised **over £1,300** for this worthy cause

Durham Cadet helps address ASB.



A **Durham Cadet** has come up with a new fast-track tool for shopkeepers and their customers to report anti-social behaviour in Darlington.

Cadet Jacob, pictured right, came up with an ingenious idea whilst carrying out a leaflet drop in Darlington to raise awareness of Anti-Social Behaviour and where support is offered to victims.

Operation Trailblazer was a police and partnership operation which ended in March 2024 involving the delivery of extra enforcement and visibility patrols across some 34 communities in County Durham and Darlington that have suffered long-running issues with ASB and disorder.

As part of the multiagency scheme, cadets have delivered thousands of leaflets to deter and prevent ASB, while also participating in engagement events hosted by the PCC.

Jacob thought it would be far easier and more impactful to distribute stickers with a QR code which can be displayed in shop windows and public noticeboards in Darlington Town Centre to enable people to report ASB swiftly and simply on their mobile phones.

Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen has funded 2,000 new stickers containing a QR code that allows shopkeepers, businesses and shoppers to report anti-social behaviour (ASB) instantly via their smartphone.

PCC Joy Allen (pictured with Cadets below) said: *"Jacob's idea was brilliant! It gives people a quick and simple route to report ASB on the spot which is exactly what residents and businesses have asked for. I'm really proud of the ongoing role our cadets are playing in reducing anti-social behaviour. This project shows just how valuable their support and input is. We can learn a lot from young people and their uncomplicated insight into local problems. Raising awareness of the channels available to report crime and ASB has been a focus for my team for some time, and I am delighted Jacob has been able to help."*

Durham's Volunteer Police Cadet programme is run by Durham Agency Against Crime (DAAC) and has inspired hundreds of young people from all backgrounds to learn more about policing since launching – with many going on to become fully fledged police officers, PCSOs and Police Staff.

Since 2023, the Commissioner has invested £108,132 in supporting the Cadet cadre, with a further £142,568 committed for the period 2026–2028, to strengthen DAAC's work with young people. This funding directly enables her to respond to the priorities identified by local residents and businesses through her public consultation.





South Wales hold Youth Volunteer Convention



On Saturday the 18 April South Wales Police held its first ever **Police Youth Volunteer Convention**, bringing together PYVs and PYV Leaders from across the force area for a full day of learning, engagement and inspiration.

The event reinforced the importance of youth voice in policing.

The convention was opened by Superintendent Naomi Drew and provided the youth volunteers with the opportunity to take part in a range of interactive workshops and presentations designed to inform, develop confidence, provoke thought and gain a deeper understanding of policing.

Some sessions focused on problem solving, giving them information and ideas that they can use both within the PYV programme and in their everyday lives.

The PYVs heard from a variety of colleagues from across South Wales Police with inputs on the work of Go Safe (Casualty Reduction Unit) from Gary Williams, the Live Facial Recognition van from PC Alex Moras and a SWP drone demonstration from PC Chris Missen.

Luckily the weather was great for those outdoor sessions.



Luke Pulvirenti presented on the dangers of AI, DI Steve Gardener gave an input on the Prevent programme and Joy Nicholls and Julie Odgers led a workshop on the work of Designing out Crime.

Special thanks goes out to Ve van der Voorde of Police Collaboration Wales, for her valuable assistance on the day.

Lunchtime provided a welcome visit from Amanda Hutchinson and Wellbeing dog Coco along with the opportunity to view a RPU police motorcycle and chat to S/Sgt Steve Hiscox.

A key strength of the day was the opportunity for PYVs and Leaders from different hubs to come together. In the feedback, many PYVs commented on how much they valued the chance to meet other PYVs from across the force, and feeling part of a wider PYV family. They also asked for the event to be held every year! The enthusiasm, interest and respect shown throughout the day reflected extremely well on the PYV programme and the Leaders.

The success of the PYV Convention has demonstrated South Wales Police's ongoing commitment to supporting young people, listening to their voices and investing in the next generation.



Nottingham Cadets take part in Charter Day



In May, **East Bassetlaw's** Neighbourhood Policing Team, Volunteer Special Constables & **Police Cadets** joined forces at Retford's Charter Day.

The event brings 1000s of people from all around with live music, activities, a duck race, lots of food and much more. The day presented lots of engagement opportunities and allowed the cadets to share their interest in policing with the wider community through a tour of a marked police car.

Workshop's Principal Cadet Leader, PC Rory Simpson said, *"This is possibly one of the busiest events that the Workshop Cadets have attended since the base opened last year. I'm immensely proud of how professional the cadets were, especially given the fact some of them are as young as 11."*



"It is great to see the cadets build their confidence by talking to the public about something they are interested in. It was fantastic to hear such positive feedback about the cadets throughout the day. I'm glad the cadets could be part of Charter Day and had the opportunity to work alongside Specials and local NPT officers."

Alongside the cadets and Neighbourhood Team Officers were also Special Constables, who are volunteer police officers that dedicate their free time to keeping the communities we live in a safe space. Policing

these types of events puts us in the heart of the community and allows us to welcome people to Nottinghamshire, ensuring that everyone enjoys themselves safely.



Special Sgt Martin Fisher said, *"Charter Day was a fantastic example of local policing, volunteers and cadets all coming together to support the community. The cadets were a real credit to themselves, and it was great to see so many positive interactions with members of the public throughout the day. Events like this help strengthen community relationships and show policing in a positive and approachable light."*



Herts Cadet recognised for their quick thinking



Hertfordshire VPC were incredibly proud to congratulate **Police Cadet Tianna**, from **Welwyn & Hatfield Police Cadets**, who received a recognition award after demonstrating exceptional courage, professionalism, and compassion while at college.

Whilst at College, Tianna noticed a fellow student suddenly became unwell, Tianna was aware that the student suffered with a medical condition, and intervened.

Tianna took decisive action, immediately providing emergency first aid and supporting her college tutor while an ambulance was called. Tianna also assisted in placing the student into the recovery position and stayed with her until the Ambulance Service arrived.

In addition, she helped contact the student's parents and supported them until they were reunited with their child.

Tianna's college tutor Paul, was so impressed by her calm and confident response that he contacted Hertfordshire Police to highlight her actions, describing her as acting well beyond her years and clearly applying the skills she has learned through Police Cadets.

Paul said: *"It was clear that Tianna had received some very good training and that was evident in her immediate response and continued support throughout the incident. For someone so young Tiana took responsibility and put herself forward to support me. How Tianna dealt with this incident and supported the student and I throughout is testament to her ability and the training she has clearly received from Hertfordshire Police Cadets and is a positive reflection on her instructors."*

In recognition of her outstanding efforts, Cadet Leader Brad Glover, was delighted to be joined by the District Commander for Welwyn Hatfield, Chief Inspector Pete Frost, who presented Tianna with a recognition award for her efforts. This is a fantastic example of the value of Police Cadets in action — well done, and congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!

Merseyside Cadets on the ball



Merseyside Police cadets have for the last 5 years assisted the Liverpool Football Association with an event called She Inspires which is a female youth football themed programme.

The programme supports an incredible grassroots football community of leagues, clubs, coaches, volunteers and parents and helps them to provide a safe and fun environment for children and young people in football.

On Friday 5th June 2026 our female police cadets assisted at a junior female football tournament, alongside Everton in The Community (EITC) and the Liverpool FC Foundation to support over 400 pupils from local schools.

The Merseyside Police Cadets were thanked for their continued support and were provided with complimentary tickets for the England Woman v Ukraine Woman's international fixture at Everton FC's Hill Dickinson stadium.





Dorset deliver VAWG input.

Earlier this year **Dorset Police Cadets** delivered a Violence against Woman and Girls (Unwanted behaviours and Unhealthy relationships) evening for all 15, 16, 17-year-old female Dorset Police Cadets.

This was an opportunity for sensitive subjects to be explained in more detail than we could deliver at our weekly unit meetings where younger and male Cadets would be in attendance.

It was held in an all-female environment so the Cadets could be informed and educated and ask questions in a safe space and also to provide the Cadets with an opportunity for them to discuss with their peers should they wish to.



The content and the delivery needed to be age appropriate and relevant, the focus needed to be on what is currently the most common Domestic Abuse offences against female teenagers.

Cadet leader Michelle drew on her experience as a Domestic Abuse adviser to prepare and deliver the topics and did an excellent job of breaking down and explaining sensitively what our young female Cadets may or in the near future be exposed to and has since won Dorset Police volunteer of the year for the work she did for this. The aim of the evening was to provide them with tools and information to help keep them safe and for them to recognise the many different forms of Domestic abuse they may be exposed to as they move onto the next chapter of their lives.

This was a great collaboration, the first Dorset have done, and due to the success and positive feedback from parent/guardians and Cadets, an event they hope to include annually, with next year being to educate male cadets of the same age groups.

A goody bag and a booklet that also contained signposting and helplines for the Cadets to take home to keep with them was also put together by the Cadet team.

Devon Cadet takes on prestigious role.



A Cadet from **Newton Abbot** has been appointed as the High Sheriff of Devon's cadet following a highly competitive selection process.

Cadet Hayden was chosen after a demanding selection day designed to identify outstanding young people who demonstrate leadership, commitment and strong communication skills.

The process involved rigorous interviews, leadership assessments, and formal presentations.

Seventeen-year-old police cadet Haydn's appointment marks a significant honour and reflects the exceptional standards achieved within the cadet unit.

The High Sheriff of Devon is the King's representative for the judiciary and law enforcement across the county, holding one of the oldest civic offices in the United Kingdom.

In this role, Haydn will accompany the High Sheriff at a range of formal and ceremonial events across Devon, including royal and civic occasions, court openings, and community engagements.

As part of the role, the High Sheriff's Cadet also acts as an ambassador for young people, representing the Police Cadets at official events and helping to strengthen connections between young people and civic life.

This latest appointment continues an exceptional run of success for the unit, with the cadets securing the High Sheriff's Cadet position for three consecutive years, a reflection of their consistency, dedication, and high standards.



Kent's Junior Cadets enjoy first residential trip.

The first ever Junior Police Cadet residential trip to Hindleap Warren Activity Centre, was a resounding success and a landmark moment for the programme. The Junior Cadets are a newer initiative for the Kent cadet programme and will continue to grow over the coming year.

A total of 14 Junior Cadets from Maidstone, Dover and Medway Units, supported by 2 Senior Cadets and 6 dedicated Cadet Leaders, took part in an action-packed weekend filled with adventure, challenge and personal growth.

The cadets embraced a wide range of outdoor activities, including axe throwing, tunnelling, and lighting campfires, where they enjoyed the much-anticipated treat of toasted marshmallows. They also took part in high wires, crate stacking and abseiling.



For many of the cadets, aged just 11 to 12 years old, the residential experience marked a significant personal milestone.

Some were away from home for the first time, stepping outside their comfort zones and facing fears with remarkable bravery.

This growth was made possible through the trust placed in their leaders and the encouragement they received from their peers.



The success of the residential would not have been possible without the sheer determination, time and resilience of the volunteer Cadet Leaders, who gave up their own time to ensure the cadets were safe, supported and inspired throughout the experience.



Julia Lindon Taylor, Mini and Junior Cadet Coordinator, said:

"I am so very proud of all the Juniors who have tried something new and it's an honour to see their smiles and achievements. They truly stepped outside their comfort zones, got wet, muddy and had fun along the way. They're inspirational."

Anne-Marie Moore – Cadet Manager said:

The leaders are outstanding and took great care of these young people. They are fantastic role models and gave up their time to support and provide such a positive and life changing experience for our Junior Cadets. I can't thank them enough."

This inaugural residential trip has set a high standard for future Junior Cadet experiences and will be remembered as an unforgettable weekend of challenge, growth and achievement.

South Tyneside support Neighbourhood Team.



Northumbria Polices' **South Tyneside VPC** recently supported the South Tyneside Neighbourhood Policing Team by assisting with a leaflet drop in the local community.

Working alongside officers, cadets helped distribute important information to residents, engaging with the public and promoting key messages from the force. Their friendly and approachable manner made a positive impression, helping to strengthen community links.

The cadets demonstrated great teamwork and commitment throughout, providing valuable support to South Tyneside NPT

South Tyneside VPC were also recently invited to attend a special ceremony as part of Volunteers' Week, hosted by Chief Inspector (Communities) Phil Baker.

The event provided an opportunity to recognise and thank cadets for their ongoing commitment to the VPC programme and the support they provide across the South Tyneside Area Command. During the ceremony, CI Baker presented cadets with compliments in recognition of their service and dedication.

The event was a proud moment for all involved, highlighting the invaluable contribution cadets make to policing and their local communities.



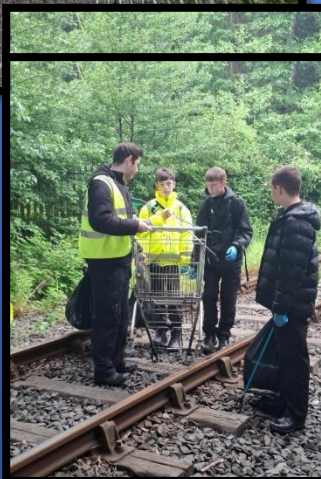
Northumbria VPC units join forces.



Volunteer Police Cadets from **North Tyneside** and **Northumberland** joined forces during Volunteers' Week for a community litter pick at Stephenson Steam Railway.

The idea was led by the cadets themselves, who partnered with a local volunteer group to help clear land in and around the museum. Working together, they made a real difference to the site while building teamwork and community connections.

It was a great collaborative effort, with some unusual finds along the way!



Lincolnshire Cadets have a busy Spring.



Cadets in **Skegness** have supported local policing teams and the Lincs Alert messaging system by dropping leaflets around the local community. A great opportunity to expand reach to local residents and for the cadets to get out and about representing Lincolnshire Police.

Grantham cadets have been out supporting the neighbourhood policing team with some community events and enjoying the sunshine! From local fun days to the Mid Lent Fair, cadets have supported a variety of local activities and engaged positively with the public.



Bourne hosted their annual scenario day, getting cadets and volunteers from across the county involved and practicing their skills. The day was full of searches, role plays, and practical exercises to test their memory around legislation and building their skills around communication and teamwork.



Spalding cadets have had some fantastic guest speakers join them to cover a variety of topics. From retired officers to BTP colleagues, cadets have been able to hear from different policing backgrounds, try on uniform, and ask lots of questions.



Cadets in **Lincoln** invited the rest of the county to join their Lincolnshire Resilience Forum exercise.

Hosted at the County Emergency Centre, cadets were able to learn more about multi-agency responses to emergencies, taking part in a practical scenario where they were able to coordinate their own teams.



Cadets in **Boston** have been practicing their searches and working through legislation with local scenarios.

They are looking forward to supporting the local Heritage Awards over the next few weeks.





Volunteer Police Cadets

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