

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.

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2022.

We are month into the new year, and we are seeing VPC schemes across most forces beginning to get back to some sort of normality with VPC units meeting face to face and engaging in their communities. Where VPC schemes are not fully back we ask for patience as forces are still impacted by COVID.

2022 will be a year of change within the National VPC team.

Staffing within the team will change and there will be a focus on supporting police forces with the introduction and implementation of the newly agreed 'Safe to Operate' standards. This set of standards, which are based on the UK Youth Safe Spaces standards, and are the industry standard, were agreed by

the National Police Chiefs Council as the standard all forces operating a VPC scheme should meet going forward. The safe to operate standards will be officially launched in March, however several forces are already working on their implementation plans. Meanwhile, we continue to highlight the great work being carried out across the VPC.



FIND US ON...



Welcome to new Cadets...and a goodbye to some

Grantham VPC held their attestation and presentation evening at Grantham Police Station on the 26th January 2022. (Source: Twitter)



(Picture credit: The Grantham Journal)

Police Cadet recruits pictured were congratulated on completion of their basic training and presented with their Attestation Certificates.

Also, VPC leaders, PC Tony Gallagher and PCSO Shannon Rogers appointed four cadets to Section Leader.

Cadet Timms was appointed to Senior Cadet and Cadet Bailey was awarded a Grantham Cadet of the Year.

Welcome to these new Cadets and congratulations to those who received awards.

Dorset Police, Bourne VPC Unit attested their recruits to the rank of Cadet under the watchful eye of Inspector Forrest.



They also bid a fond farewell to Senior Cadets Ryan & Zaki. Both have been with the VPC since the start of the Dorset scheme and volunteered 45.5 hours in the community between them in the last 8 months.

It is encouraging to see VPC schemes across England & Wales continuing to recruit and bring more young people into the policing family to learn, and grow as young citizens

Gwent welcome new Mini Police

Gwent welcomed 16 new Heddlu Bach (Mini-Police) recruits from Plas-Y-Felin primary school in Churchill Park to their police family. We look forward to seeing their work to improve their school and community.



But not goodbye to all...stepping it up

We love to see Cadet's progress and non-more so than when they reach 18 years and decide to be a Cadet Leader. There are many examples of this and here is just one of them



Preity McGarry decided she wanted to join the Police in the future, she knew signing up for the cadet scheme would give her a good insight into the career. The experience proved so positive for her, that now she's old enough, she's stepped up into the role as one of their cadet leaders.

Preity, an 18-year-old student, who is studying uniformed public service at Coventry College, said:

"Personally, I thoroughly enjoyed cadets. It helped build my confidence, self-esteem, and social skills. Cadets gives young people a community to belong to, so they'll know there's support when they need it and highlights some of the opportunities that are available. Many cadets also develop some great friendships - I have and they've been very supportive in my journey from cadet to leader."

It has only been recently that Preity made the transition from Cadet to Leader, but she's already seeing how she can make a difference.

"A great part of being a leader is the impact that we have on young people. I can speak from experience when I say that many cadets find the sessions to be a safe place, so even if circumstances aren't great at home or they've been having a rough time at school, they can come to cadets and get away from everything for two hours."



As she embarks on a new chapter of her life as a leader, Preity has a message for the cadets she's now helping to thrive:

"Never give up on your dreams. No matter what anyone says, no matter what obstacles you face in life, you can keep going. Never forget to have fun because you're only young once. And know that your cadet leader will always have your back, offering support to you however they can."

Community Engagement & Social Action

A key component of being in the VPC is young people engaging communities and carry out social action to improve their local communities and make a positive impact.

Lancashire's' Pendle VPC unit

Cleared a piece of land to help build an allotment so they can grow food for the local food banks a job well done, below is a before and after picture.



Wey Cadets, Dorset



Cadets assisted Westham Neighborhood Policing Team in delivering 750 leaflets.

They were promoting The Nest, a very worthwhile community service, which is a not-for-profit community-based shop in Weymouth providing cheap nutritious food for local people on limited incomes.

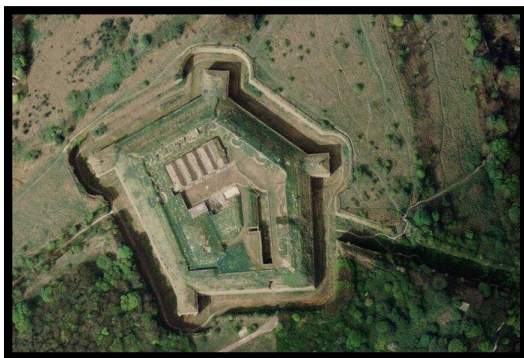
Sussex Cadets conduct knife sweeps

Sussex Police Cadets conducted knife sweeps of local parks & open public spaces in Eastbourne.



Supported by their leaders, Cadets searched for discarded or hidden knives, and other potential weapons, as well as discussing the dangers of knife crime with passersby.

Kent Cadets tidy up history



Youth engagement officer, Mark Ball has been out and about with the Dover VPC carrying out maintenance work at the Drop Redoubt, one of the two forts on Western Heights within Dover.

This work is part of their continuing social action regarding Heritage Crime



Spreading the message

Plymouth VPC teamed up with Devon & Cornwall's Charles Cross Local Policing Team to spread the message about exploitation of children.

Their briefing by the Inspector included details about a missing person and later that evening two of the cadets located them. Great work!



Senior Cadets from Derby supported PCSO Leverington of Spondon Safer Neighbourhood Team with a Crime Prevention initiative to highlight ways to reduce vehicle theft and inform people about the @DerbyshireAlert scheme.



Warwickshire warn against fraud



Warwickshire VPC have been out and about in Nuneaton town centre with the Safer Neighbourhood Police team

Market traders were given pens to check money notes. Cadets engaged with members of the public and market traders on a busy Saturday in the town centre.



Tackling speeding on the streets of Wales

Cardiff Eastern Police Youth Volunteers assisted PCSO Hughes from Penylan Neighbourhood Policing Team with a speed scoping operation on Ty-Draw Road.



Turning the town red



The *Walt Disney* Company
Europe, Middle East & Africa

“Turning Red” is Disney’s brand-new movie and premiered this week, Sutton VPC from the Metropolitan Police provided support on the red carpet.



Cadets spent time with The Walt Disney Company, Europe, Middle East & Africa security team and their partners, learning how major events are planned, looking after VIPs, media, location management & much more



8 cadets then joined stars, including Sandra Oh & Singer, Ann Marie (pictured right) on the red carpet. The cadets were even given VIP tickets to then join guests in the Everyman Cinema and be the first to watch the new film.



A great experience for all, and one which the National VPC and Disney team are working hard to be able offer on a wider basis across all VPC schemes.

A journey of remembrance

Sutton VPC also made a very poignant, emotional, and thought-provoking journey to the World War II concentration camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau. 17 Cadets and 5 staff travelled to Krakow, Poland for this educational visit.



Auschwitz was the largest of the German Nazi concentration camps and extermination centers in World War II.



Over 1.1 million men, women, and children, mainly Jews, lost their lives there



The cadets who visited, saw a lot, learnt a lot, and needed to process a lot, but it was worth every second to ensure that the memories of this heartbreaking tragedy are never forgotten.



An insight into Policing

Giving young people an insight into policing is another important part of the VPC

Lancashire get up close and personal



Cadets in Lancashire have had inputs from Officers from Lancashire's Tac Ops and officers from the Stolen



Vehicle Identification Unit.

The Officers took time out to talk to Cadets about their role and show some of their kit along with the cars they use. The cadets thoroughly enjoyed their input.

West Midlands Cadets in virtual reality

Sandwell VPC team had a fantastic visit from West Midlands Traffic learning about road harm prevention and getting to used to the Virtual Reality headsets to "keep it real".



West Midlands Cadets also heard from Dudley Police Commander, Chief Superintendent Kim Madill who talked about her experience in policing and telling us what she loves about policing.



Budding Investigators

Organised in partnership with the Murder Investigation Team at Peel Centre, Hendon, 43 cadets from Harrow & Barnet VPC became detectives for the evening and were given tasks to find various items across different floors of the building, including weapons, drugs, and items involved in fraud offences.



Once all items were found cadets had to package them in the correct way and then present it to the MIT Inspector who was providing feedback on how well they completed the task.

Essex take aim

Cadets from Thurrock VPC had a fantastic input by Essex Police Firearms Support Unit the team gave an amazing presentation to the cadets followed by a show and tell of some of the specialist equipment.



Learning about heritage



Mini Police from Roebuck Academy, Hertfordshire were introduced to police officers who protect heritage sites and endangered species.

The children looked at night vision equipment, a drone and a leopard skin which had been confiscated.

Earning their Digital Wings



The National VPC team have been working in partnership with Barclays to offer VPC schemes the opportunity for cadets to take part in their Digital Eagles program.



Cadets from Norfolk VPC are the most recent to complete the 4-week course delivered virtually.

Well earned Digital Wings and certificates.

We would like to thank Barclays for their continued partnership. Any VPC schemes who wish to know more about this program should contact the National VPC team - admin.vpc@vpc.police.uk



Have you got a story for us?

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

Many of our stories are taken from social media but if you have specific one to share

let us know by emailing: vpc.admin@vpc.police.uk

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