



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 April 2026 edition of the National VPC newsletter. This action-packed Spring 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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Meet Ex-Volunteer Police Cadet, Liam



We always love to hear and see what our Cadets have achieved since leaving the VPC and how their time in the VPC helped them.

Liam was one of the very early Cadets with the Durham VPC scheme and after passing out from the scheme 10 years ago he has gone on to have several roles within public service and is currently serving in the Royal Navy. This is Liam's story.

"Its Hard to believe that 10 years ago I would have been in my final year as a police cadet with Durham Constabulary, a scheme that truly kick-started something phenomenal and opened so many doors.

During my time as a cadet, I had the opportunity to get involved in so much more than I ever expected. From volunteering alongside the local neighbourhood team, to spending multiple Christmas Days supporting individuals through initiatives run by PACT House, and contributing to community projects, it was an experience that shaped me in ways I'm still grateful for today.

Along the way, I met some incredible people and was honoured to receive two commendations from Stanley Town Council and Durham County Council for services to young people.

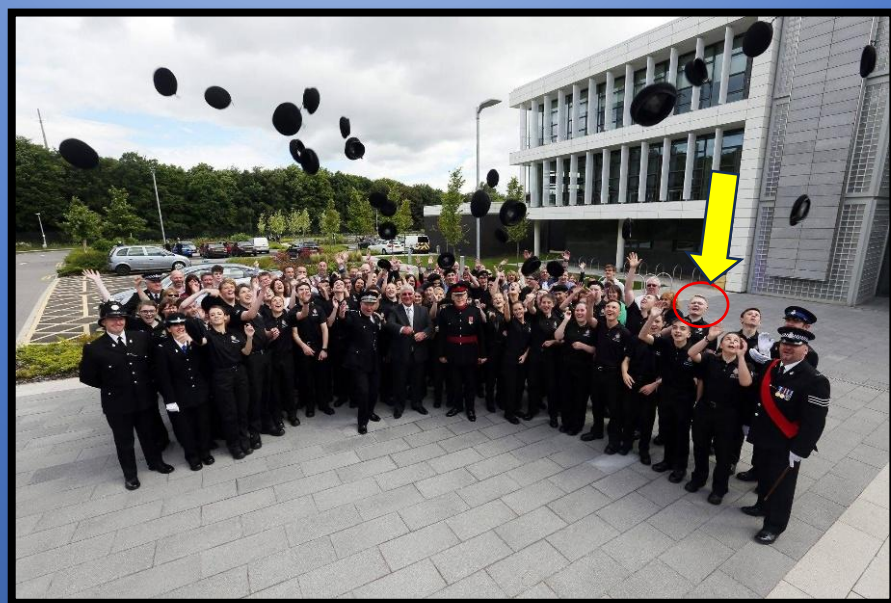
Fast forward a decade, and I've had the privilege of working in both policing and the armed forces, taking on roles across frontline operations and support functions. The cadet scheme gave me the foundation, skills, and confidence to succeed and keep developing in these environments.

I've also had the pleasure of giving something back as a cadet instructor with both Northumbria Police when I was a Police Community Support Officer and Royal Navy-affiliated cadet forces, serving as both a Divisional Officer and Training Officer.

But perhaps most importantly, the experience helped shape who I am outside of work building resilience, discipline, and a strong sense of community.

For anyone considering it, I can't recommend it enough. It really can be the start of something life-changing."

A photo right of my passing out (naturally I'm pulling an awful face as always!)



A great testament here to the benefits of the Volunteer Police Cadet scheme from Liam, and we wish him success in his future endeavours



Staffordshire welcome a new generation

Staffordshire VPC had a fantastic time hosting three **Staffordshire** Police Cadet Attestation Ceremonies, welcoming a new generation of cadets into service recently.



In front of proud parents, families and friends, each cadet made their promise to serve His Majesty The King and their communities - a moment that captures the very best of Public Service, commitment and citizenship

They were also honoured to be joined by representatives of the Lieutenancy. Thank you to His Majesties Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire Liz Barnes CBE, Vice Lord Lieutenant Graham Morley and Deputy Lieutenant Dame Asha Khemka DBW, alongside High Sheriff Tim Galloway, for their presence and encouragement.



Cadet Taylor Froome (pictured left) age 14 who actually joined Lichfield Cadets on his 13th birthday does a lot of events at Tamworth, and attends the Tamworth meetings when he can, his dedication is remarkable.

Taylor confidently addressed the assembled Cadets, their parents, and the Lord Lieutenant, his presentation was outstanding, leaving a strong impression on everyone present.

His speech at the ceremony which can be viewed clicking [HERE](#)





Merseyside Cadets help bring in Chinese New Year

Volunteer Police Cadets from **Merseyside** joined, Officers and Special Constables to assist with the policing of China Town in Liverpool City Centre to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

This is an annual event that the cadets do alongside their leaders to engage with the public.



Herts' celebrate International Women's Day

Two cadets and **Watford** Cadet Leaders attended the International Women's Day 2026, at Hertfordshire Police headquarters and all left feeling inspired, motivated and valued.

Hertfordshire shone a light on the incredible young women in our Cadet programmes—future leaders, role models, and changemakers.

Their dedication, courage, and commitment inspire us every day.



From stepping up to challenges, supporting their communities, and showing what's possible when passion meets purpose, the Cadets embody the spirit of International Women's Day





Surrey Cadets look towards Positive Futures

Surrey's **Elmbridge VPC** Unit has undertaken a new 'Positive Futures' project. Positive Futures was launched by David Huse OBE, the former Chair of National Neighbourhood Watch, and is supported by Surrey Police and the University of Surrey.



Positive Futures encourages young people to think about problems and issues in their communities and then to work with teachers, youth workers, the police and council workers to devise solutions to tackle them.

The aim is to increase trust between police and young people and to empower them to come up with

strategies to prevent and deter low-level crime in their communities. This is the fifth Positive Futures project to be launched in Surrey, but the first pilot within a VPC Unit.

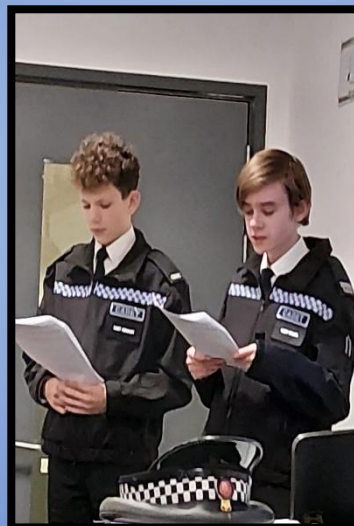
At the start of the term, one of the Force's Problem-Solving Advisors taught the cadets about what anti-social behaviour is, 'broken windows theory', 'route cause analysis' and the 'OSARA' problem solving method – which stands for Objective, Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment.

The cadets also learnt about Environmental Visual Audits or EVAs.

Following this, the cadets chose a location in the borough which they felt could benefit from the project.

During half term, the cadets visited the location to conduct their own EVA and fed back their findings. Cadets then worked together to do their own OSARA to identify the problems, possible causes, actions and solutions which could help resolve them.

This included installing CCTV, improving the lighting, removing natural seating in the undergrowth, cutting back some of the greenery, cleaning graffiti, fixing broken play equipment, and setting up a local volunteer community litter-picking group.



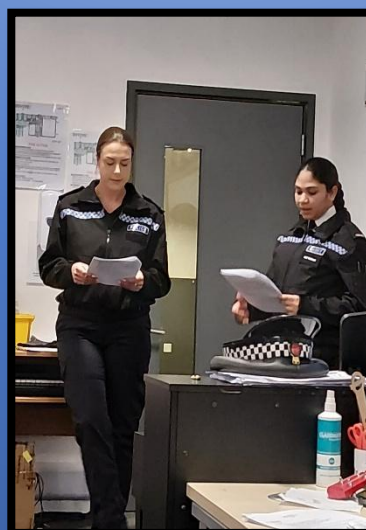
Cadets worked together to produce and deliver a great presentation to local VIPs and stakeholders to share their findings and ideas.

Guests included Borough Inspector Chris Thoday, Mayor of Elmbridge Steve Bax, Katie Edwards-Coomber from Elmbridge's Borough Council Community Safety Team and a representative of the local resident's association.

The questions and answer session which followed has helped shape the cadet's plans for next term which include working with the local policing team, council and other partners to implement the changes.

There was even a discussion about creating a Youth Drop-In Café in the local town centre to offer positive activities, adult supervision, support and signposting for local young people!

The Positive Futures project is a fantastic example of how Volunteer Police Cadets can work with local partners to make real and lasting positive changes in their community.





Northumbria Cadets discover cutting edge roles

North Tyneside and Northumberland Cadets had an exciting opportunity to visit Northumbria Police's Marine Unit for a behind-the-scenes look at one of the Force's most specialist teams.

Cadets were welcomed by Marine officers for a tour of the facilities, where they learnt about the unit's essential role in patrolling rivers and coastal areas, conducting search operations, and supporting wider policing activity across the Northeast region.

During the visit, cadets were able to get hands-on with some of the specialist marine equipment and personal kit used by officers on the water, giving them a real insight into the skills and preparation required for this unique area of policing.



Adding to the experience, the cadets were also fortunate to receive an input from the Force's specialist Drone Team. Officers demonstrated the technology behind police drones, explained how they are deployed in searches, major incidents and evidence-gathering, and showcased some of the capabilities of the equipment.

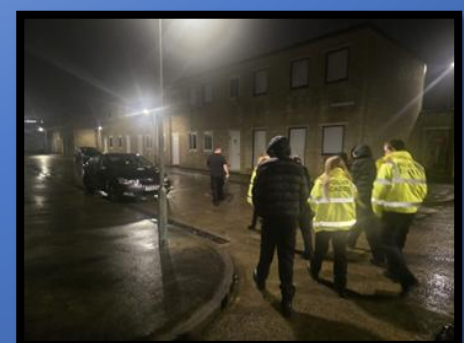


The Cadets also enjoyed an exciting and insightful visit to the Northumbria Police Firearms Unit at Follingsby Park. The visit offered a rare behind-the-scenes look at one of the Force's most specialist and highly trained teams.



During the session, cadets learned about the role of Firearms officers, the types of incidents they respond to, and the extensive preparation and decision-making required to keep the public safe. Officers talked through the specialist skills needed within the team and the rigorous training involved in maintaining operational readiness.

Cadets were then taken on an exclusive tour of the training facility, where they were shown some of the equipment, environments and resources used by officers to prepare for real-life scenarios. This provided a unique insight into how the Firearms Unit rehearses tactics, develops team communication, and builds confidence to respond effectively in high-risk situations.



The visit was a memorable opportunity for cadets to broaden their understanding of specialist policing and speak directly with officers about their experiences. A huge thank-you to the Firearms Team for welcoming the cadets and giving them an inspiring look into this important area of policing.

West Midlands Cadet Wellbeing Day



This year the **West Midlands Citizens in Policing Team** organised and delivered a Wellbeing Day for over a 100 Cadets.

The day involved an input around mental health from Birmingham Minds.

Patch Work Yoga, delivered some great Yoga techniques to both Cadets and Cadet Leaders. Also, plenty of Wellbeing and mindfulness art, bracelet and wrist band making, games and many more activities.



This was an ideal time to launch Hidden Disabilities for our Cadets. The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower is a simple tool for you to voluntarily share that you have a disability or condition that may not be immediately apparent – And that you may need a helping hand, understanding, or more time in shops, at work, on transport, or in public spaces etc.



Volunteer Cadet Leaders also supported the event and Steve and Sarah from the National VPC Safeguarding & Standards Hub attended, they support all 44 police forces and see firsthand the national safeguarding issues that affect our young people. They were pleased to see a Force providing a provision to help manage and support our Cadets.



Havering fundraiser in memory of fellow Cadet

Following the tragic death of Cadet Reece Mozirer, from the Metropolitan Police Volunteer Cadet, **Havering VPC Unit**, at the end of last year, his fellow Cadets wanted to do something in his memory to raise money for charity.


The Cadets decided on a Mud Run, which took place on Thursday 9th April at Nuclear Wild Forest in Kelvedon.

It was a brilliant (and very challenging!!) event and it was wonderful to see them all encouraging and supporting each other around the course.


Their efforts have so far raised they have £1600 for the charity, Papyrus.



A JustGiving page has been set up in Reece's memory for donations to Papyrus, and can be accessed [HERE](#)




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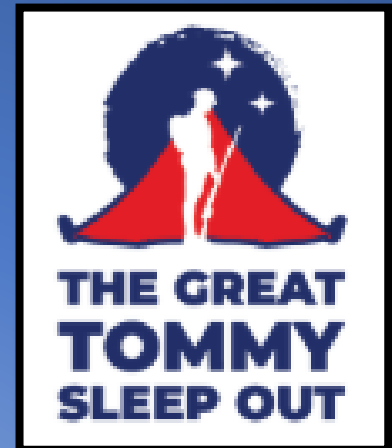
Derbyshire complete Great Tommy Sleep Out

A team from **Derbyshire VPC** have completed the Great Tommy Sleep Out Challenge.

Back in March the team had an early start at 1.00am in Derby City Centre at the site where PC Joseph Moss was fatally shot while on duty in Derby. in July 1879. PC Moss, formally a Grenadier Guard, alongside two colleagues - had pursued and confronted Gerald Mainwaring and Annie Green, who had caused a drunken disturbance with a pony-and-trap in Derby.

During their arrest at the Police Lock-Up in Derby, Mainwaring drew a revolver, shooting Moss, who died from his injuries the following day.

The team then walked to Derby Train Station and cleaned the memorials on Platform 1 to earn their train travel to London.



The group then travelled from London to Kent and the home of the GTSO, Royal British Veterans Enterprise (RBVE) undertaking some of the tasks the veterans undertake, before then traveling back to London.

Whilst in London the team visited the Grenadier Guards Museum and later that evening, witnessed the prestigious Ceremony of the Keys before completing the sleep out on a roof top garden on top of Cannon Bridge House.



The team documented some of the heritage sites across London logging them as part of Historic England's Missing Pieces project and in turn becoming Heritage Cadets before returning home.

Assistant Chief Constable Michelle Shooter who holds the volunteers portfolio, representatives from the Armed Forces Family Network, Force VPC coordinators and the parents/guardians of the Cadets all welcomed them back from their trip as they arrived back at Derby Train Station.

The team have raised an incredible £2,301 so far for the RBVE



This was one of Derbyshire VPC's most ambitious and unforgettable experiences to date.



High Sherriff Cadets celebrate a year of service

April marks the end of a memorable and impactful year for **Lancashire Cadets, Olivia and May**, who have successfully completed their term as Lancashire High Sheriff Cadets.

Their journey was recently celebrated at a special Awards Evening, where their hard work, commitment, and contribution to the High Sheriff's office and the wider community were warmly recognised.



A Year of Dedication and Development

Throughout their year long appointment, Olivia and May have played an important role in representing the High Sheriff at civic events, community engagements, and ceremonial duties across Lancashire. Their involvement has included:

- Supporting high profile events and official engagements
- Assisting with community projects and charitable initiatives
- Acting as ambassadors for young people across the county
- Demonstrating leadership, teamwork, and professionalism in every task

Both cadets have consistently shown maturity, reliability, and enthusiasm—qualities that have made them outstanding representatives of the High Sheriff Cadet scheme.

The Awards Evening provided the perfect opportunity to celebrate their achievements. Surrounded by family and programme leaders, Olivia and May were commended for their positive attitude, willingness to serve, and the personal growth they have shown over the past year.

Their contributions were highlighted as invaluable, with praise for the way they approached each opportunity with confidence and a genuine desire to make a difference.

We congratulate Olivia (pictured below left) and May (pictured below right) on an exceptional year and wish them every success in the exciting chapters ahead and many thanks to the outgoing High Sheriff Jim Carter and his wife Annabel.



Thames Valley VPC enjoy an Easter Camp



Cadets from **Thames Valley VPC's Banbury, Bicester and Witney** units had an amazing time at their Easter Camp.

They lit a campfire and obviously had to toast some marshmallows too! They then took part in several activities including climbing, a zip wire, orienteering, aeroball and tomahawk throwing.

The cadets all got stuck in, some of them conquering their own fears and pushing through with loads of encouragement from their peers. It was really lovely to see cadets making new friends from different units and stepping out of their comfort zones.

They enjoyed free time, playing sports in the fields and exploring the woodland areas and even had an Easter egg hunt on the Sunday morning



It was a great experience for all who went and we cannot wait for the next one!





Volunteer Police Cadets

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