



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 2025 edition of the National VPC Newsletter highlighting the activities & achievements of VPC Units, Cadets, and Leaders across the VPC

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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Derbyshire Cadets' quick actions are recognised.

A group of Cadets from **Derbyshire VPC** have been awarded the Duke of Edinburgh Award – This is Youth All Stars Ward (Team Category). The team received their award from the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace.

Back in May 2024, six Derbyshire volunteer police cadets – Amelie, Bethan, Clarissa, Emilia, Teri and Rosie – set off on their Bronze expedition, their first major outing together.

Little did they know that before reaching the second checkpoint on day one, they would need to deal with a medical emergency, and that their quick actions would potentially save one of their teammates' lives.



When Cadet Teri collapsed and lost consciousness en-route, the group acted swiftly and decisively. Each member took on a specific role – contacting their Leaders, keeping Teri warm, and talking to her to provide comfort until she regained consciousness. They also recorded detailed notes of their actions to share with emergency responders.



Their first aid and CPR training, along with lessons on using police radios and backup phones, proved invaluable in this critical moment. The cadets had rehearsed protocols for emergencies, ensuring they felt prepared and confident.

Through their training and trust from their Leaders, Cadet Amelie says they instinctively *"knew what to do"*. Meanwhile, Emilia says that the biggest lesson she learned from the experience was that *"teamwork is the best option"*.

Derbyshire VPC leader, Dom (pictured right) said *"When the group wanted to continue their expedition, I felt very proud of them for the fact that they wanted to carry on and keep moving. This is everything we try to instil in our young people."*

The Derbyshire police cadets were nominated for All-stars of the Year by Dom, who highlights how *"the actions of this group demonstrate a great example of young people working together. They calmly, as a team, managed to pull together to help resolve the incident."*



Awards winners - Cadets Amelie, Bethan, Clarissa, Emilia, Teri and Rosie pictured below.





High Sherriff Awards



Congratulations to **Blackpool and Fylde Police Cadet Arboretum Committee** for being awarded the High Sheriff's Young Citizen of the Year Group Award at Lancashire Police Headquarters back in February.

The Cadets were presented with the Award by the outgoing High Sheriff of Lancashire and Lancashire Chief Constable Sacha Hatchett.

The Cadets were given this award for their dedication and outstanding commitment to the research, design and development of the Police Memorial at the Fylde Arboretum (pictured below) in Bispham which opened last year.



The cadets were helped by Police Cadet Leaders Steve Smith and David Barnes (pictured right) who were so proud of the hard work of our amazing cadets.



The outgoing Lancashire High Sherriff has also presented awards to her three High Sherriff Cadets.

Cadets **Harry, Ariana and River** were invited by the outgoing High Sheriff Helen Bingley OBE,JP,DL. to Lancasters' Shire Hall at Lancaster Castle (pictured bottom right) to receive an "Unsung Heroes Award".

This award was presented to the cadets (pictured bottom left) in recognition of them assisting and taking such good care of the High Sherriff during her term in office. A very proud moment for the cadets - well done.



Mr Jim Carter DL was recently installed as the new Lancashire High Sheriff at Preston County Hall and two Lancashire Police Cadets, May and Olivia, who have been appointed as High Sheriff Cadets to support him.

May McGowan is a South Ribble Cadet, and Olivia Bythell, a Burnley Cadet, both joined the VPC in September 2024.

May and Olivia were chosen after expressing an interest in the role to the Cadet Supervisor Jenni Watkins. There were over 30 applications for the two High Sheriff Cadet positions.



The High Sheriff Cadets will alongside the High Sheriff for a year, attending any events that the High Sheriff is invited to, from opening events to the Shield Hanging at Lancaster Castle and Royal visits.

This is an excellent opportunity for the Police Cadets, who will also be working with a Fire Cadet and Paramedic Cadet.



Elsewhere, congratulations to the Southampton VPC unit from Hampshire & Isle of Wight, who attended the Hampshire High Sheriff Awards in Winchester.

Pictured left are Mikey Gibbs (Unit Leader of Southampton) & Michaela Farrah (Southampton Cadet Leader) receiving a High Sheriff's award for the unit.

The Southampton unit attended many community events in 2024 working closely alongside their local neighbourhood Policing teams at knife sweeps and supporting Cancer Research UK at the Shine the Night walk in Southampton.





In **Warwickshire**, six cadets and PC Lee MARSTON attended the High Sheriff of Warwickshire awards ceremony at Shire Hall in Warwick along with numerous guests and dignitaries.

The six cadets helped throughout the ceremony doing different roles to assist the High Sheriff, over 30 individuals and groups were presented certificates of recognition for their work spanning community volunteering, youth engagement, faith-based service, fundraising, heritage and social support



For each presentation there was a citation read out from one of the dignitaries about the remarkable individual or organisation receiving it.

The cadets felt very privileged to be part of an amazing awards ceremony and their cadet leader **PC Lee Marston** was honoured to receive an award in recognition of great and valuable services to the community from the High Sheriff of Warwickshire -pictured above left.



Met Police VPC hold their annual awards ceremony.

In March the **Metropolitan Police VPC** held an amazing day for their Volunteer Police Cadets, Coordinators and Leaders, celebrating all of their achievements and dedication to the VPC over the last year. They got to share their success with their families and friends. Deputy Assistant Commissioner Ben Russell opened the ceremony, Commander Glen Pavelin also attended the awards ceremony.

The Lord Lieutenant Sir Ken Olisa OBE presented 100 coronation coins to the cadets and leaders who participated in various events during the Coronation weekend back in May 2023. He also closed the event.

A huge well done to all of those who were nominated, shortlisted and of course the winners, we hope you all had a great day!!

The winners were –

BEST NEW CADET: Sofia Spitadakis: Bromley VPC

COMMUNITY CHAMPION: The Wandsworth VPC Team

Ethan Langley

Jani Green

Nevaeh Johnson

Sansan Vu

Shyanne Warham

Summer Heartfield-Baboolal

Tyreses Banks

COMMUNITY CRIME FIGHTING: Lewisham VPC

COURAGE AND RESILIENCE: Danny Chrysanthou-Lewis Barnet VPC

LEADERSHIP: Tiffany and Tamsin Pieterse: Barnet VPC

VPC LEADER OF THE YEAR: Grishma Patel: Barnet VPC

COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR: Rebecca Pitt: Croydon VPC

MPS CADET OF THE YEAR: Karla Armioni: Newham VPC





VPC Unit leader wins prestigious award.

Emma Gregory, Unit Leader from **Weston-Super-Mare Cadet Unit** won the prestigious award of Citizen in Policing of the Year at the Avon & Somerset Police Outstanding Policing Awards 2025.



Emma was nominated because she is an inspirational leader, ensuring her unit is both vibrant and impactful.

Since becoming a unit leader in 2023 Emma has introduced structured planning, empowering cadets to take ownership of their learning.

Her leadership has resulted in engaging, educational sessions, including the first ever cadet-led discussion on terrorism. Emma's dedication goes beyond the unit itself - she arranged the first multi-unit summer camp since 2019, planning every aspect to ensure a safe and enriching experience for all.

Emma is pictured above with Avon & Somerset Chief Constable Sarah Crew, Police & Crime Commissioner Clare Moody and Alex Lovell from ITV News (who hosted the awards). The Outstanding Police Awards were held at Bristol Aerospace where the nominees and their guests dined under Concorde! It was a fabulous evening and a well-deserved win for Emma.

Northamptonshire recognise Leader long service.



Pictured left are some of Northamptonshire Police Service Volunteers/ Northamptonshire Emergency Service Cadet (ESC) Leaders who received long term service awards these included –

- **4** leaders who received 10 year + awards,
- **16** leaders who received 5 year + awards
- **1** leader who received 3 year + award. for supporting NESC and our young people.

Not all leaders were able to attend but their commitment to our cadets was acknowledged.

The above photo also includes the Cadet Youth Council (centre row) who compared the evening. These cadets are elected in their units to give the cadets a voice, they attend quarterly meeting to share views and opinions from the 200+ cadets with the Citizens in Policing team.

Awards were presented by OPFCC Danielle Stone and CIP team Sgt Nick Paul (Not in photo) guest speaker High Sheriff Amy Crawford and Ann-Marie Lawson who presented a special recognition posthumous award. (Front row centre.)

Back row awarded leaders left to right -

UC David Tearl – UC Adam Jeskins – UC Ana Pereira – Leader Liam Tearl – DUC Justin Scrimshaw – DUC Abbie Tearl – DUC Barry Shield – DUC Jim King – UC Clive Skingsley. We would like to congratulate the leaders and thank all the leaders who volunteer their time to support young people throughout the Northamptonshire.



Northamptonshire Cadets clean up.

The big Kettering Spring clean took place in March.

The whole community came together to do an amazing job. Litter picking, graffiti cleaned, flower bedding cleaned and replanted, bus stops cleaned, front shops cleaned and much more.

Northants Emergency Service Cadets supporting the big clean up.



Gwent refresh fun runners.



Gwent VPC have a very good link with Run4Wales in Gwent, and they get asked to oversee certain Water stations of running races on an annual basis.

This year, they were given the honours of the busiest Water Station on the route as they had the 10km race run passed them once, and the Half and Full Marathon pass them twice.

All of the cadets put in an amazing shift, starting at 7:50am on a Sunday, volunteering until 3pm when all the runners had passed and the roads opened and roads cleared of mess too!



Humberside Cadets get practical.



The Humberside Community Safety Unit hosted the first ever Humberside VPC event at Raywell Scout Camp at the beginning April.

Staff from various departments came together to create an event where the cadets were able to put their skills and knowledge to the test.

Volunteer Cadet Leader Graham Benson created an event where the cadets got to interact with members of the Tribune Trust, witness an “offence” taking place and put their statement writing skills into practice.



The cadets came from all Humberside’s VPC units and worked together in teams to tackle the tasks set out for them and the feedback from those who took part has been extremely positive and even Assistant Chief Constable Mike Walker got involved in recusing the “Casualty”!

Katie Hardy Force Cadet Lead said, *‘I was extremely proud of the cadets who got involved and the support from those who took part in making sure the cadets had a great day learning more about what we all do to support the wider public was amazing to see. Thank you to everyone who support Graham in making the day happen and supporting our Cadets.’*



Suffolk Cadets visit the Capital.



Cadets from the **Lowestoft VPC** unit in Suffolk travelled for a visit to London. For some, their first visit.



After a long drive on a 'fun-bus' minibus, the cadets got to explore Westfield Stratford shopping centre, got a full guided tour of the houses of Parliament, quick visit to the London eye and New Scotland Yard before visiting the Sky Garden, Fenchurch.



Cadets from 7 police forces take part in a tactical exercise.

Cadets from 7 different police force areas took part in an event in support of a Tactical Firearms Group exercise at TikTok HQ in London.

90 Cadets and 25 leaders were involved and played a mix of injured persons and other role players.

The VPC units involved were from the City of London, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Cleveland, Metropolitan Police, Hertfordshire and British Transport Police VPC schemes.



This was followed by a tour of Tower Bridge and then an evening activity for cadets. This was supported by Cadet Leaders Anne King, Carol Warn, Eleanor Gill and PC Nicholas Bush (TFG instructor).

TVP Cadets support Neighbourhood policing.



On the 24th February 2025 two High Wycombe Police Cadets enjoyed a half-day work experience with the Thames Valley Police, Marlow Neighbourhood Policing Team.



The cadets were able to get involved with speed enforcement, they helped the officers fill out the ticket books and got to have a go at holding the gun!

They then got to enjoy a visit to the CCTV offices in High Wycombe, High Wycombe Police Station and ended the shift with some patrols in Bourne End, Wooburn Green and a hotspot patrol in Marlow.

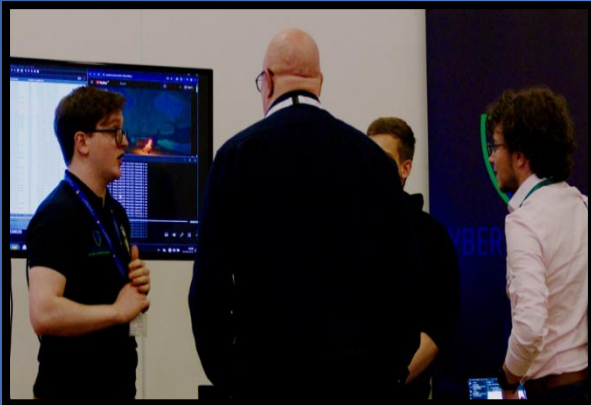


Young Cyber Security Ambassadors begin their journey

Yorkshire & Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit (YHROCU) have launched a new initiative, Young Cyber Security Ambassadors (YCSA) Programme sponsored by Amazon Web Services.

YOUNG CYBER SECURITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

The YCSA programme seeks to provide existing **Volunteer Police Cadets** who have an interest in computing and technology with a 12-month programme of training and volunteering opportunities across the Yorkshire & Humber region, alongside YHROCU and Force Cyber Crime teams.



The Regional Cyber Crime Unit Detective Inspector Richard Wallis and Police Sergeant Nathan Clarke, leads for the Yorkshire & Humber team behind the inaugural YCSA programme said:

'We're excited to launch an education and volunteering programme of this nature across the Yorkshire & Humber region. The initial cohort of 23 Cyber Ambassadors have been recruited from across all 4 regional Force Volunteer Police Cadet schemes, and after an initial period of training will accompany ROCU and Force Fraud and Cyber teams at various events across our communities providing peer-to-peer advice and support to keep young people safe online.'

'Cyber Ambassadors will receive a programme of education delivered by Police in collaboration with our Partners, including British Esports, Amazon Web Services, Sheffield Hallam University, CiiSec, SudoCyber, CyberFirst and many more. These informative sessions will equip Young Ambassadors with key cyber security knowledge and raise awareness of the many education and career opportunities to be pursued in the future both inside and outside of policing.'



The YCSA Programme is the first of its kind across UK Policing and will undergo a formal academic evaluation before an anticipated national roll out in 2026.



Team building in Northumbria.



Cadets and Leaders from the **South Tyneside VPC Unit** came together for a team building day back in March. The day started with a six mile walk along the beautiful South Tyneside coastline, finishing at Whitburn.

In true British weather tradition, it rained consistently for the duration of the walk, testing the team's resilience and motivation!



Once at their home for the night at a local scout hut, the cadets spent the evening working on groups activities and participating in team games, all planned by themselves in advance.



The evening included the non-beer. beer pong marathon shown in pictures as well as a mammoth game of hide and seek. The evening was an overwhelming success, with cadets asking when they could return.





Avon & Somerset help thirsty runners

Earlier in the newsletter we showed how Gwent VPC helped runners by handing out water – well Cadets from **Avon & Somerset** got in on the act too.....



For the first time the Avon & Somerset Police Cadets were invited to support the Bath Half Marathon in March.

It was a cold but beautiful day and at the crack of dawn two groups of cadets set off to Bath to volunteer. A group of 22 cadets and leaders had an amazing day hosting water stations for the runners.

The cadets set up the water stations, filled thousands of cups of water and handed them out to over 12,000 exhausted runners.

The cadets came from the South Gloucestershire and Weston-Super-Mare cadet units and worked really well together to ensure they provided an excellent service to the marathon organisers as well as the runners.

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**Volunteer
Police
Cadets**

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SCAN ME