



Cumbria Police Cadets

The Aims of the VPC:

- Promote a practical understanding of policing amongst all young people
- Encourage the spirit of adventure and good citizenship
- Support local policing priorities through volunteering and give young people a chance to be heard
- Inspire young people to participate positively in their communities

The Principles of the VPC:

Each cadet unit should include:

- Members aged 13-18
- 25% of cadets from a 'vulnerable' background
- Cadets who volunteer 3 hours a month – assisting in community and crime prevention measures
- Cadets that represent the diversity of their service area

[For more info visit www.vpc.police.uk](http://www.vpc.police.uk)

Frequently Asked Questions

Who are the National VPC?

The Volunteer Police Cadets is the nationally recognised police uniformed youth group throughout England & Wales and in Scotland known as Police Scotland Youth Volunteers. Whilst being a national movement, all forces work to a national standard, whilst ensuring local volunteer police cadets operate flexibly in local police forces with individual forces being responsible for their delivery. The sharing of good practice and learning is encouraged at a national level. The National VPC is a part of the wider National Citizens in Policing portfolio. All forces operate under the National Police Chiefs' Council supported framework, sharing the common Aims and Principles of the VPC across England & Wales.

We have a vision to be a world-class, socially inclusive uniformed youth group based on the values of British policing, demonstrating every day positive impact in our local communities. This is based on four national objectives-

- Making a difference in local communities, building character, confidence and contribution through youth-led social action.
- Actively helping divert young people away from negative influences and crime
- Building trust and confidence between young people, their communities and the police.
- Enabling young people to have a real voice and influence in building a positive, relevant 21st century policing

What are the Benefits to my Force/Service?

We believe that every young person deserves the opportunity to thrive regardless of his or her background. We encourage young people from all backgrounds to join the VPC, including those who may be vulnerable to the influences of crime and social exclusion. By engaging and diverting these young people we can bring down antisocial and criminal behaviour in their target age range. Cadets also agree to undertake at least 3 hours per month volunteering in their local community or supporting local policing priorities. In this way they provide an added value to local policing. In addition, by engaging a Cadet body that represents the diversity of your force area you will improve the future recruitment diversity of your employed workforce.

How much will it cost?

Cumbria Constabulary VPC scheme is free. There may be a small request for contributions to specific activities (for example participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards) but we encourage any parent or guardian to speak to the Citizens in Policing Team should they be concerned about any financial aspect.

The National VPC framework?

The National VPC aims to unite Police Cadet programmes across the country with a view to sharing resources and best practice, attracting new funding and creating a nationally recognised "brand". The framework is designed to allow local flexibility in delivery allowing for inclusion of pre-existing Cadet schemes with central support and guidance.

What are the benefits for the Young People?

Cadets get an insight into the workings of the police service, qualifications, access to the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and unique opportunities to make friends with young people with a common interest. Those that we recruit from a vulnerable background get a stable structured environment where antisocial behaviour is appropriately challenged, and they are rewarded for their active citizenship. The purpose of the VPC is not to recruit police officers of the future, but to encourage the spirit of adventure and good citizenship amongst its members.

What are the benefits for the Leaders?

Whether they are police employees or volunteers, Cadet Leaders obtain transferable skills and a sense of satisfaction in supporting their local communities and young people with a genuine interest in Policing. They may be offered nationally recognised qualifications as well as Pro-social modelling. The police officers, police staff and adult volunteers who support cadet units are expected, to uphold the highest standards in line with the values of British policing.