



**Volunteer  
Police  
Cadets**



**SUPPORT  
CADETS  
SPECIALS**

**VOLUNTEERS  
IN POLICING**

Could you spare 2 hours per week to help prevent crime?

Could you have fun, make friends and help your local community at the same time?

Would you like to experience behind the scenes policing, and increase your skills and abilities?

Why not challenge yourself, try something new and join something great...

The Volunteer Police Cadet Programme at Leicestershire Police is growing from strength to strength.

We currently have almost 250 cadets split across eight units in Leicestershire.

Included in this pack is all of the details you need to join the cadets, including details about our cadet units and some frequently asked questions.

**#WILLYOU** be a police cadet?



## **What is a Volunteer Police Cadet? (VPC)**

Volunteer Police Cadets are young people aged between 13 and 17 who are passionate about adding an extra dimension to their lives, and have a keen interest in policing. They play a vital role in helping us to deliver and improve the service we provide to our communities.

Some of our current cadets have helped to create a video providing a short snapshot of the opportunities and activities offered to them, including a visit to the police dogs, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, a tour of a police riot van and a leaflet drop to help with an ongoing investigation.

You can view the video on Leicestershire Police's YouTube channel ([leicspolice](#)) or on the force website.

## **Could you be a police cadet?**

If you will be turning 13 before 31 August 2019, you can apply to be a police cadet.

During your time with us you will be given a unique insight into policing, and you'll get the opportunity to visit different policing units and see behind the scenes.

You'll be mixing with a range of officers from different areas and backgrounds, and you'll get to learn basic knowledge across a range of policing activities, including issues around drugs, alcohol and antisocial behaviour.

Volunteer Police Cadets help in the community and get involved with anything from local events to festivals and sporting matches. They also help their local policing teams by doing leaflet drops, crime prevention initiatives, community safety events and street surveys.

Thanks to the cadets, Leicestershire Police is able to better tackle issues that matter to local people. Cadets give up their time and energy for the benefit of the community and the people who are a part of it.

## Where are the VPC Units?

We currently have 12 VPC Units in 8 locations across Leicester and Leicestershire:

- Central Leicester – *Leicester College*
- Hinckley – *Hinckley Academy*
- Coalville – *Newbridge High School*
- Charnwood – *Woodbrook Vale School*
- East Leicester – *Gateway College*
- Melton Mowbray – *John Ferneley College*
- Market Harborough – *Robert Smyth Academy*
- South Leicester – *South Leicester College*

You will be allowed to state your preferred unit, and we will try to place you in the unit closest to your home or school.

## What is the VPC programme?

The aims of the VPC programme are to:

- promote a practical understanding of policing among all young people
- encourage a spirit of adventure and good citizenship
- support local policing priorities through volunteering
- inspire young people to participate positively in their communities
- give young people a chance to be heard

If you'd like to find out more about the National VPC Programme, please visit their website: [nationalvpc.org](http://nationalvpc.org)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q. How often do cadets meet?**

**A.** Units meet once a week in the evening (during school/college term-times) and may be additionally involved in activities at weekends and during school holidays. Cadets also aim to volunteer three hours per month in support of local policing.

### **Q. How much does it cost?**

**A.** Even though the cadets are volunteers in the organisation, we ask them to give a small amount of money to the unit through weekly subscriptions which will be set upon commencement. This is used to cover some basic expenses in running the programme. If individuals have particular financial difficulties then a resolution can be discussed with the local unit Cadet Leaders.

### **Q. What equipment do I need?**

**A.** We will provide a uniform to cadets at no cost. Cadets are required to wear black/dark shoes or boots (school uniform type footwear) while in uniform. We recommend that cadets bring a pen and pad to write down notes and to record information when at unit meetings or events.

### **Q. Will being a cadet help me to join the Police service?**

**A.** The Volunteer Police Cadet programme will provide you with a practical insight into policing. There are no guarantees that this will lead to either paid or voluntary work within the wider police family.

### **Q. Will it increase my chances of getting accepted into the force when I am 18 years old?**

**A.** The volunteering that you complete can be added to your C.V. so in this respect it will increase your personal chances. It is not a part of the recruitment pathway.

### **Q. How old do I have to be to join?**

**A.** The Volunteer Police Cadet (VPC) programme is open to young people aged 13 to 18. You can apply to join the VPC programme aged 12 years, as long as your thirteenth birthday is before the 31 August 2019.

### **Q. Do I have to have any qualifications or skills?**

**A.** You don't need any experience, skills or qualifications to be a cadet, however there is a selection process. We expect you to commit to attend regularly, volunteer

three hours per month (after the recruit induction period) and strive to improve yourself and your local community.

**Q. Will there be an interview? If so, who with?**

**A.** At this time, there are no plans to hold formal interviews. However, we reserve the right to follow up any application forms with telephone or personal interviews, if appropriate.

**Q. Can I still join if I have special needs?**

**A.** The programme welcomes young people of all abilities. If a cadet has special requirements we will strive to accommodate this. If appropriate, we can use the support of a carer provided by the cadet.

**Q. Will you look into my family and background?**

**A.** New recruits wishing to join the programme will go through a vetting process; the purpose of this vetting is not to routinely preclude any young person from the programme, but rather allow the Cadet Leaders to manage any potential risk that is highlighted.

**Q. I don't live in the Leicestershire Police area. Can I still join?**

**A.** We are only able to offer places to young people living, or being educated, in Leicester, Leicestershire or Rutland.

**Q. Are there open days so I can see what it is like to be a cadet?**

**A.** We currently do not offer open days. However, if you contact your local unit they may be able to arrange for you to come along and observe one of the evenings.

**Q. I've been in trouble with the Police. Can I still join?**

**A.** As part of the application process you will be required to disclose any information regarding convictions, cautions or other criminal disposals, and these will be taken into consideration. Failure to provide information may hinder your application and prevent you from joining the programme.

**Q. My question hasn't been answered, can I talk to somebody?**

**A.** The best way for you to find out more is by contacting the Volunteers in Policing Team at Leicestershire Police. You can send an email to: [couldyou@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:couldyou@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk)