



Cambridgeshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner

To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Executive

Date: 14 July 2015

VOLUNTEER POLICE CADETS

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on the development of the Volunteer Police Cadet scheme in Cambridgeshire.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of this report.

3. Background

3.1 Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC) is a uniformed voluntary youth organisation run in 36 police forces. It aims to promote a practical understanding of policing among all young people and encourage the spirit of adventure and good citizenship through volunteering in the community. It also provides opportunities for structured youth engagement and diversionary activities.

3.2 The Commissioner pledged, in his plan, to “support work with young people to divert them away from a life of crime”. He is committed to support work with young people to engage them in activities that will benefit the whole community.

3.3 The National Volunteer Police Cadet (VPC) Team has been awarded funding from the Uniformed Youth Social Action Fund which they are using to support the development of units within areas of high deprivation. The National VPC team provided Cambridgeshire with £5,000 to help set up new units in Peterborough and Wisbech.

4. Volunteer Police Cadet Units in Cambridgeshire

- 4.1 There are two active units based at Thomas Deacon Academy in Peterborough and Soham Village College in Soham with a total of 59 Volunteer Police Cadets, 15 non-police leaders and 24 police leaders volunteering in their own time.
- 4.2 Volunteer Police Cadet units are tailored to the needs of the local community. It is important they operate within a force framework and adhere to local guidance. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) currently provides this framework. A VPC Programme group is currently being established to oversee the general implementation of the scheme in Cambridgeshire, ensure plans are appropriate and suitable and that the participants are safe from harm.
- 4.3 Links continue to be strengthened with the National VPC team who are also supporting the international development of Volunteer Police Cadets. The Peterborough Unit has been highlighted as an example of a successful group and have been asked to host colleagues from New Zealand in September.
- 4.4 The OPCC Volunteer Co-ordinator and two leaders attended a 'Train the Trainer' course delivered by the National VPC team in April 2015 which qualified them to deliver a Senior Cadet Leadership Course. They are hoping to deliver a course regionally in the autumn for cadets aged 16-18 who are looking to move into a leadership role.
- 4.5 Cambridgeshire VPCs will represent the National VPC team at the Lord Mayor's Show in London in November.

5. Local Unit Updates

5.1 Peterborough Unit

- 5.1.1 A total of 26 Volunteer Police Cadets received their uniform and made their Cadet oath at a ceremony on January 21, 2015. There has also been a second intake of Cadets who started at Easter and nine young people are now working towards their recruit stage.
- 5.1.2 The unit has recruited three additional leaders – two police officers volunteering in their own time and a Special Constable. This means there are now 19 adults in the leadership team. One of the Cadet Leaders, Jess Evans, passed out as a Special Constable in June 2015.
- 5.1.3 In the period from February to June 2015, the Cadets undertook 18 volunteering duties totalling 510 hours.

Month	Activity	Number of Cadets	Hours	Total number of hours
February	Op Freeze - crime prevention	27	2	54
February	Cadet recruitment in Soham	3	2	6
March	Mayor's Event	9	2	18
March	Litter pick	14	2	28
April	Role Play - new Probationers	5	5	25
April	Community event - Egg hunt	12	4	48
April	Community Drop in	3	2	6
May	Role Play - new Specials	3	8	24
May	Cancer research race for life	7	6	42

June	Enquiry Office	2	2	4
June	Mayor's Event	5	3	15
June	Waterloo Parade	18	2	36
June	Enquiry Office	2	2	4
June	Cancer research race	12	8	96
June	TDA Business Conference	1	4	4
June	Armed Forces Day	15	6	90
June	Enquiry Office	2	2	4
June	PCC Youth Fund Event	3	2	6

5.1.4 The programme has been varied and has included inputs from Major Crime Team, Scene of Crime Officer and traffic. The VPCs have also visited Firearms and the Control Room at HQ. At the end of term, they will join their Army and RAF Cadet colleagues at a Combined Cadet Force Parade to celebrate their achievements over the year where awards for 'Best VPC' and 'Most improved VPC' will be presented.

5.15 The feedback from VPCs about their experience so far has been positive and shows the difference the Scheme has made to them:

"Being a part of the police cadets has made me rediscover a passion inside of me, I am finally able to be proud of my achievements"

"I joined the police cadets because learning more about the police would enable us to interact more with the community that we live in.....with the diversity of our community, it has brought people together"

5.2 Soham Unit

5.2.1 A total of 28 young people joined the scheme when it launched at Soham Village College in April 2015.

5.2.2 The cadets are working towards their recruit level and 24 young people are expected to make their oath at the passing out parade at Ely Cathedral on 13th July 2015. The event will be supported by the Commissioner, Deputy Chief Constable as well as local dignitaries including the High Sherriff and Mayor of Ely.

5.3 Wisbech Unit

5.3.1 Two units are being set up in Wisbech: a mainstream unit at the Queen Mary Centre and a satellite unit based Meadowgate School with sessions differentiated for the individuals involved. Recruitment for leaders and cadets has started and both units will launch in September 2015.

5.4 Cambridge City Unit

5.4.1 A location has been identified for the Cambridge City unit and planning is underway to launch the scheme in the autumn.

5.5 Cambourne Unit

5.5.1 The Commissioner attended a Parish Council Meeting in Cambourne and they expressed an interested in funding a Cadet scheme in Cambourne. A meeting has been set up for later in the month (July) to discuss options including funding for the unit.

6. Recommendation

6.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of this report

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document(s)	
Contact Officer(s)	Hannah Watson Volunteer Co-ordinator, OPCC Hannah.watson@cambs.pnn.police.uk 01954 713911