



The Metropolitan Police Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC) is open to young people aged 10 to 18 years (Seniors 13 - 18, Juniors 10 - 13). Cadets are drawn from all parts of society including referrals from units such as Safer Schools Officers, Child Protection and Youth Offending Teams.

There are over 4000 Volunteer Cadets in the MPS and over 300 Cadet Staff. The Staff, who mostly supervise the Cadets in addition to their normal role, comprise police officers, police staff, special constables and volunteers.

Most Cadet Units meet once a week on a chosen evening in their local boroughs. Meetings usually include inspection and drill, some sort of physical activity and input on a police related topic as part of an ongoing training programme. Cadet Units involve themselves in other activities at weekends and in school holidays and this may include going away on camps and training weekends.

Various Cadet Competitions are held throughout the year, which test the skills developed within the VPC Units. We also run and encourage all cadets to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. All Cadets are expected to volunteer for at least 3 hours per month for 'working type' events such as crime prevention stalls, leaflet drops or assisting with non-confrontational policing.

In Lewisham Borough we currently have 3 Senior and 3 Junior Cadet Units.

- Lewisham Central Unit meets Tuesdays 7pm - 9:30pm at Trinity School, Lee. (Senior)
- Lewisham North Unit meets Thursdays 6:30pm - 9pm at Deptford Green School, Deptford. (Senior)
- Lewisham South Unit meets Tuesdays 4.30pm - 6pm at Conisborough College, Catford. (Senior - targeted SEN)
- Lewisham (Catford) Junior VPC Unit meets Tuesdays 4:30pm - 6pm at Conisborough College, Catford.
- Lewisham (Forest Hill) Junior VPC Unit meets Wednesdays 3:30pm - 5pm at Forest Hill School.
- Lewisham (Deptford) Junior VPC meets Thursdays 5 – 6:30pm at Deptford Green School.

To be eligible to join Lewisham Cadets you should live, work or be in education on the borough.

The purpose of our Volunteer Police Cadets Unit is to:

- Develop young people, so that they may become good citizens.
- Work towards the MPS youth strategy on youth diversion from crime.
- Help with non-confrontational policing.
- Promote crime prevention.
- Assist with community and charitable events.

Activities that the cadets get involved with are things such as:

- Local non-confrontational policing and community events - e.g. carnivals, fetes, crime prevention initiatives, charitable activities
- Pan-London policing activity e.g. London Marathon, Trooping the Colour, Notting Hill Carnival.
- Joint Emergency Services Training Exercises.
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and our own camps and expeditions.
- Sports and competitive events.
- Learning police-related skills, e.g. law, police procedure and first aid

All events that the cadets take part in are assessed as suitable for their participation by the Cadet Unit staff and parental permission forms are always required for each separate activity or event.

Membership fees: Senior Cadets pay £25 per academic term, or £2 per week until it reaches that amount.

Junior Cadets pay £12 per academic term or £1 a week until it reaches that amount.

Lack of money should not prevent you from joining us, so if this is an issue please speak to us.

The Lewisham Volunteer Police Cadet Unit can be contacted on 07557 831162.

To register an interest in joining please email Lewisham.Cadets@met.police.uk

Our Deptford Green Units are currently meeting from our traffic base in Aitken Road, SE6 3BG until further notice