



# **Transitions for Young People through the Cadets and Into Adult Police Volunteering Roles**

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## **National Volunteer Police Cadets & West Yorkshire (Longitudinal Study)**



## 1. PROJECT SUMMARY

The project aims to develop and test models to support the transition of young people across mini-police, Cadets and ultimately into positive engagement within the policing family or beyond as adults, including transition from Cadets into adult volunteering opportunities as Police Support Volunteers, Cadets leadership and Special Constables.

## 2. KEY DELIVERABLES

The project has two key components.

### ***Identifying best practice for transitioning into adult volunteering roles***

The first component of the piloting work is a national research and engagement project to develop insight into current experiences nationally for young people of transitioning from being Volunteer Police Cadets to being in adult volunteering roles, such as the Special Constabulary, Cadets leadership, and Police Support Volunteers.

### ***West Yorkshire longitudinal study of young people's progression***

The second component of the project is a longitudinal study of young people's progression through mini-police and junior and senior Cadet models within a test area of West Yorkshire.

## 3. PROJECT RESOURCING/TEAM/COSTINGS

Project Manager: Ed Sherry, National Volunteer Police Cadets Office

The VPC will manage a delivery budget of £15,000 to deliver the projects (working with West Yorkshire in respect of the longitudinal study project).

The Institute for Public Safety, Crime and Justice will manage the delivery of the research and evaluation activity, with a budget of £10,000. The IPSCJ will partner with Canterbury Christ Church University in the delivery of the first component of the project.

## 4. TIMELINE

### ***Identifying best practice for transitioning into adult volunteering roles***

The key milestones for the work are:

January – March 2018 - Undertake surveys and focus groups with both older Volunteer Police Cadets and with ex-Cadets who have had experience of transitioning, to build insight into the experience, opportunities and barriers, etc.

April – September 2018 - Develop guidance, working with young people, and in part utilising the national Cadets conference as an opportunity to engage in ‘solutions workshops’, to improve future practice nationally.

September 2018 onwards – Roll out guidance and new practice nationally.

### ***West Yorkshire longitudinal study of young people’s progression***

The key milestones for this work are:

January – April 2018 – Agree the test area. Design the longitudinal study approach. Develop the model for the mini-police/Cadets in the area concerned.

May-August 2018 -Establish the delivery model.

September 2018 – January 2019 – First phase of longitudinal study data collection

February 2019 – Produce First Phase Report of the longitudinal study

March 2019 onwards – Ongoing phases of delivery and of the longitudinal study.

## **5. EVALUATION PLAN**

### ***Identifying best practice for transitioning into adult volunteering roles***

Undertaken jointly by CCCU and IPSCJ, the initial research will engage young people in 4-5 force areas. Using a methodology of surveys (for serving VPCs) and focus groups (for young people who have been in the Cadets and subsequently had some transitioning experience), the research will identify key learning from current experience. The research will cover the degree to which young people have ambitions to go on into adult volunteering roles, their understandings of the voluntary opportunities available, their experiences of transition, how prepared the VPC experience has made them for transition, and what factors influence and impact upon them positively and negatively.

Based upon this insight, the work will then engage young people in developing solutions to improve experience and progression in the future.

### ***West Yorkshire longitudinal study of young people’s progression***

Working with West Yorkshire Police and local partner agencies, the IPSCJ will establish a longitudinal study across a specific neighbourhood in the West Yorkshire force area.

The detail of the longitudinal project design will be developed in the initial phase of work in January-April 2018.

## 6. PRODUCT

The adult volunteering transitions component of the project will deliver guidance for improved practice in terms of the transitioning of Volunteer Police Cadets into adult volunteering roles in the police. This guidance will be disseminated nationally, facilitated by the National VPC Office.

The West Yorkshire longitudinal study will provide the first long-term longitudinal tracking of young people over an extended period of time in respect of engagement in mini-police and Cadets. The PTF funded element of the project will deliver the first phase of this ongoing work.