Practitioners from the Citizens in Policing Programme in the UK, and colleagues from across the world came together recently for a Volunteering Conference hosted by the Institute of Public Safety Crime and Justice (IPSCJ).

The event was opened with keynote speaker, Dr. Ross Wolf, Interim Assistant Provost of the University of Central Florida who is also a Reserve Chief Deputy in the Orange County (Florida) Sheriff’s Office as well as President of the Volunteer Law Enforcement Officer Alliance (VLEOA). Ross gave a fascinating insight to US Policing, as well as the Reserves and Auxiliary Police sharing the differences between England and the US.

Other speakers at the conference included Dr Iain Britton and Carol Borland-Jones from the IPSCJ and the MC’s for the event were Dr Laura Knight and Clare Leon.

Looking forward into 2020, exciting development will include:

• The introduction of a new National VPC Strategy with accompanying framework and National Safeguarding policy
• Further news on the next stages in the development and use of the Valuing Volunteer Framework
• A national programme of events, activities and resource to further support the development of the CiP agenda

I would just like say a massive thank you and highlight that the progress that has been made could not have been done without the continued effort, support and active engagement of our Volunteers and CiP colleagues.

Thank you again and I wish you all the best for the year ahead.

Lisa Winward
Chief Constable, North Yorkshire Police & NPCC Lead for Citizens in Policing

CUMBRIA HOSTS LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEER POLICE Cadet Leaders

Cumbria and Lancashire Forces came together recently to receive leadership training delivered by the National VPC Team.
**HUMBERSIDE CADETS GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY**

On Saturday the 30th of November Humberside Police Cadets braved the cold weather in Tunstall to help the Plant a Tree Today Foundation. They worked together alongside young people from the local Early Intervention Team to plant over 1,700 whips to help create One “Hull” of a Forest. The foundation aims to work with young people all over the Hull area which is where our Cadets and Early Intervention Team stepped in to lend a hand!

As Cadets they take great pride in their local area and understand the importance of giving back to the communities around them. They really enjoyed the event and the fact they were able to help not just the Foundation but also young people for generations to come who will benefit from having a Hull Forest on their doorstep once the trees have grown. Since the Plant a Tree Today Foundation started they have planted over 3 million trees worldwide to help local communities and combat climate change so it is great for our Cadets to be part of this Journey.

Norfolk Constabulary held its ‘Noscas’ (Norfolk Safer Community Awards) evening recently with various members of the Norfolk Police family being presented with awards for work done during the year. The last presentation of the evening was a well-kept secret. Jeeves, one of the horses was being retired, and the Chief wanted to present him with an award as he had been the first horse to join the team at its conception.

The evening progressed and the final presentation was to be a Chief’s award. The emergency exit doors opened and in came a guard of honour from the Unit followed by Jeeves ridden by Special Inspector Tallent. Jeeves handled it like a pro; not moving a muscle even when the audience erupted into applause. Special Inspector Tallent told us that Jeeves will remain in the family spending his retirement grazing in the field.

On OUR Lancashire Day 2019 community groups from across the county joined us at the Tower Ballroom in Blackpool to celebrate the Our Lancashire Website – the one stop shop for community groups and events. Social action groups generously gave their time to tell their story, to perform and provide a memorable afternoon to over 400 people. We were joined by representatives from partner organisations to tell the story of Our Lancashire, how it came about and our plans for the future. Guests were welcomed by the harmonious trio The Bluebirds and Dave Guest, BBC presenter introduced the afternoon of entertainment.

Clive Grunshaw Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire introduced the event and explained the impact the Social Action Network had on communities and how reducing loneliness by being involved with community groups can increase health outcomes and community resilience.

Ian Sewart, Our Lancashire Programme Manager introduced the growing team who are working throughout Lancashire to support groups and Ian explained how “Everyone can make a difference. We are promoting and connecting groups across the county”

There were performances and video presentations from several groups from across the county, have a look at the website and social media channels for footage from the event www.ourlancashire.org.uk. This is the website for people to register their groups, find people with similar interests or groups to network and for community based projects to be able to promote their events for free. If you wish to get in contact our email is ourlancashire@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

We were treated to live performances and several groups had prepared short films to illustrate what their groups do. We heard from group attendees what a positive difference the social interactions had made, we learnt of new skills acquired and new friendships made.
International Volunteer Day took place on 5 December and is a chance for individual volunteers, communities and organisations to promote their contributions.

Several Forces took the opportunity to raise awareness of the Citizens in Policing Programme to showcase how they engage and involve volunteers as part of the policing family.

GMP has 350 Special Constables, 140 Police Support Volunteers plus Volunteer Police Cadet Leaders and Cadets making a huge difference to the communities of Greater Manchester.

GMP is also part of the national Employer Supported Policing Scheme, so members of Police Staff who volunteer as Special Constables and Police Support Volunteers can benefit from additional paid time off to undertake their volunteering duties and/or training – and this benefit was promoted internally to staff on the Day.

There was a Citizens in Policing stand at the Force Headquarters Christmas Fair, where Police Support Volunteers and a Special Constable had the opportunity to chat to GMP staff about volunteering opportunities within policing.

There was lots of social media activity throughout the day, including a thank you from the Police Federation for England and Wales.

A fresh-faced group of volunteers have joined the Force in a bid to crackdown on rural crime across Northumberland.

A total of 20 Rural Crime Volunteers officially joined Northumbria Police recently and will work closely with officers and other partner agencies to help prevent and disrupt local and cross-border criminal activity. Each volunteer will support officers with local and national police operations including Operation Checkpoint.

Superintendent Helen Anderson, from Northumbria Police, said: “We’re delighted to welcome these volunteers into our policing family. Each volunteer already has contacts within their own rural communities which will help with getting messages out and intelligence in. They will also help us to promote rural crime prevention messages for hard to reach audiences.”

Police and Crime Commissioner Kim McGuinness said: “It’s amazing to see so much dedication from these volunteers. They continue to support officers and staff in their work to tackle rural crime and they do it all on their own time and on occasion risking their own personal safety. It’s an honour to be able to present them with their badges and welcome them to Northumbria Police as official Rural Crime Volunteers. I wish them all the luck for their future operations and have no doubt they will continue to be an essential asset to the Force.”

The volunteers come from a variety of different backgrounds including Gamekeepers, Estate Managers and Farmers and are coming far and wide from the border with Cumbria down to the Durham.

The Volunteers already have a good understanding of local crime and wildlife concerns in their areas which can be passed to the right agency for the best response.

One of the volunteers said: “It’s about doing my part for the community. We can be the eyes and the ears out in the public to help officers and do our bit. Whether it is looking out for suspicious activity and vehicles or sharing intelligence quickly amongst officers and other volunteers – it can all pay off.”

While a Rural Crime Volunteer does not have powers to arrest they will have access to police equipment and information, for example having access to radio channels to share intelligence during operations.

Superintendent Anderson added: “We recognise the contribution of our official Police Volunteers and I want to wish them luck and once again offer my gratitude for all they do.”
WARWICKSHIRE POLICE HOSTS REGIONAL POLICE CHAPLAINCY CONFERENCE

On Tuesday 29th October 2019 Warwickshire Police Headquarters hosted the West Midlands Regional Police Chaplaincy Conference 2019.

Taking place every two years, the conference saw the Lead Chaplains for Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police host chaplains from neighbouring Forces West Midlands Police and Staffordshire Police.

The day started with a welcome from Deputy Chief Constable for Warwickshire Police, Richard Moore who also provided an update around the national policing picture.

The event also celebrated the success of John Butcher, Lead Chaplain for West Midlands Police, who was recently awarded with a British Empire Medal for his work in Police Chaplaincy.

During the conference a series of talks were given, including one from Chief Superintendent Kenny Butcher from West Midlands Police who shared his thoughts around ‘preparing for the unthinkable’.

Lead Chaplain for Warwickshire Police, Matthew Hopley interviewed Supt Bell over the tragic death of PCSO Holly Burke and the impact her death had on the wider police family. This session highlighted the role of the chaplaincy service in such tragic circumstances, and how important it is for Police Chaplains to establish great working relationships with senior officers for their respective policing areas.

Dick Johnson, West Mercia Police Lead Chaplain, shared insights and practical information to help to equip chaplains for dealing with times of change and uncertainty.

The day finished with a presentation from Citizens in Policing Manager, Sian Battle-Welch who paid tribute to the Police Chaplaincy Service, recognising the hours, commitment and support they provide and the value they add to Police Forces across the UK.

Lead Chaplain for Warwickshire Police, Matthew Hopley, said: “This year’s conference was a fantastic opportunity to update and inspire chaplaincy teams across the region and it was an honour to welcome everyone to Leek Wootton.

“I’d like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to all those who attended and were involved in making this year’s event so worthwhile.

“Police Chaplains are there to support you in your time of need and are a really good provision for venting your feelings and problems. By bringing together Chaplains from across the region, we are all able to share ideas on how to best serve and support our police families alike.”

Chaplaincy has been part of welfare support in the police for many years. Chaplains are motivated by their faith to offer care and support for anyone who seeks it, regardless of their beliefs or not, in any aspect of their work or personal lives, be it concerning ethical, spiritual, emotional or other matters. They befriend, act as a sounding board and a confidant to anyone who would like to talk to them, and their conversations are held in confidence.

The Bradford District Annual Awards Ceremony 2019 was opened by District Commander Chief Superintendent Oz Khan and attended by the Senior Leadership Team for Bradford District Police and the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police, John Robins.

More than 30 Awards were presented at the event and comprised of District Commander’s Commendations, Royal Humane Society awards and Judge’s Commendations.

Luke Coates, who is a Volunteer Police Cadet in the Keighley Unit and in his second year, received a District Commanders Commendation. On the 2nd May 2019 a PCSO was on duty in Market Square, Shipley when she was informed that a lady had collapsed. Upon arrival Luke was there, had phoned for an ambulance and had made the lady comfortable. The situation quickly changed and the casualty became unresponsive, Luke confidently told well-meaning bystanders what the ambulance control had told him and further helped the PCSO by running to the local library to get the defibrillator. When the ambulance arrived, Luke provided a handover to them so that the casualty could be looked after properly. He then returned the defibrillator to its place despite knowing he would miss his next bus home!

His citation reads: ‘For your quick thinking and calm manner in assisting an elderly woman who had collapsed. You followed instructions and helped the attending PCSO manage the situation effectively. You conducted yourself in a manner that exceeded your age. You are a credit to yourself and your Cadet Unit.’

PC Grace Detoeuf, Cadet Unit Leader for Keighley said, “Luke is a true example of what a Police Cadet is; he put other people’s needs before his own and I am so glad that he has been recognised for this act of selflessness.”

In closing the ceremony Chief Constable John Robins paid tribute to the winners and said the event had showed that Bradford was a great place; it had an amazing atmosphere.

Chief Superintendent Oz Khan, said: “I am very proud of my officers and staff at Bradford District for the work they do to keep people safe every day and I was delighted to celebrate some fantastic examples of work at this special event. It was also pleasing to be able to reward the work of partners and members of the public, whose amazing efforts have supported the work of our officers and staff in Bradford.”
Kevin became a Police Support Volunteer in May 2017 and joined the team in the Public Protection Unit in South Cumbria with a specific responsibility around the installation, review and removal of TecSOS devices.

Kevin’s role is to support detectives to improve community contact, confidence, satisfaction levels and to reduce risk to victims of Domestic Abuse with his main role being the installation and removal of the TecSOS that are a vital instrument in keeping vulnerable victims of domestic violence safe.

Karen is a Police Support Volunteer with Lincolnshire Police’s Operation Revive team, which provides support to vulnerable and elderly members of the community who have been identified as being victims, and potential victims, of crime.

Karen visits people who have either been scammed or have been victims of an attempted scam and offer further help and advice.

Amanda has been a Police Support Volunteer for two years and helps with volunteer interviews, inductions and also undertakes administrative tasks within the Specials Welfare Hub, supporting officers who are on a leave of absence. She says “I am passionate about the development of the Forces’ Citizens in Policing Programme and can actively contribute to this through my volunteer role.”

Karen visits people who have either been scammed or have been victims of an attempted scam and offer further help and advice.

Karen is a Police Support Volunteer in Nottinghamshire and says “I have learned a range of skills including basic interviewing and case building. It has also made me more resilient and able to remain calm in challenging situations. Being a Special has increased my self-confidence and my ability to manage my own time, which has been essential when balancing a full-time role as a Cadet Coordinator, volunteering as a Special and studying for my Master’s degree.”

(Credit: https://www.citizensinpolicing.net )

Audrey Niddrie is a Special Constable in Nottinghamshire and says “I have learned a range of skills including basic interviewing and case building. It has also made me more resilient and able to remain calm in challenging situations. Being a Special has increased my self-confidence and my ability to manage my own time, which has been essential when balancing a full-time role as a Cadet Coordinator, volunteering as a Special and studying for my Master’s degree.”

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GMP’s Scambusters are a team of Police Support Volunteers who give peer-to-peer support to victims of fraud as well as attending community events to promote fraud prevention.

The Castle Fields Streetwatch Group, based in Northamptonshire Police, are on patrol twice a week in Wellingborough to tackle fly tipping, car theft, drug dealing, burglary and anti-social behaviour. They also lead monthly litter picks which take more than 100 bags of rubbish off the streets.

The best thing I gained as a Cadet Leader.”

Kamaal Khalil from Derbyshire Police says “The best thing I gained as a Cadet was discipline; it really helped me change my behaviour for the better. When I started, my behaviour was unpredictable and challenging for the Leaders, and I didn’t regularly attend. I have been able to do things I never thought I would do, taking part in the Iron Team Challenge with Cadets from Forces across the UK. I have now been promoted to Cadet Leader.”

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Kevin’s role is to support detectives to improve community contact, confidence, satisfaction levels and to reduce risk to victims of Domestic Abuse with his main role being the installation and removal of the TecSOS that are a vital instrument in keeping vulnerable victims of domestic violence safe.
It was time to get stuck into the first activity of the evening – performing vehicle checks using the radios. The Cadets paired up and took it in turns to go out to the car park, accompanied by a Leader. Each Cadet had to perform at least one vehicle check, testing their radio skills as well as their Phonetic Alphabet knowledge.

It’s really valuable how the Cadets Group encompasses not only police-specific skills, but life skills too – the Phonetic Alphabet will come in handy no matter what career path they choose to take.

Back inside, I got chatting to a few of the Cadets and ended up talking to the oldest member and the newest member at the same time: Nikki, who had been a Cadet for three years, and Erin, who had joined just one week ago. They’re both considering a career in the Police, and Nikki is hoping to continue with Cadets once she turns 18 by re-joining as a Volunteer Cadet Leader.

Selena and Lauren rounded up those not doing vehicle checks into a circle and got them to throw a gym ball to each other, with the ball receiver having to spell their name in the phonetic alphabet.

Soon it was my turn to head out into the car park with the final pair of Cadets. The Leader did a great job of going through and explaining what we needed to say step-by-step. Next up it was time for the group to try their hand at person checks.

The patience of the Leaders and the encouragement they gave to the Cadets was inspiring to see, as was the satisfaction of the Cadets when they got something right.

“Being a Cadet Leader is very rewarding,” said one of the Leaders. “It is fantastic to see young people getting opportunities which can lead them onto a career with the Constabulary. Many of our Cadets go on to become Special Constables, Regular Officers and Police Staff.”

The Senior Cadet, Selena, arrived and confidently began rounding up all the other Cadets to begin the session, alongside Deputy Senior Cadet Lauren.

There are six Volunteer Cadet Leaders in total, but on that night there were four present from a variety of different roles within the police: Control Room Operator, Response Police Officer, a Detective and a Special Constable.

The Leaders began by giving the Cadets a brief training on how to use police radios. The key point they drummed home was to not press the orange button, as this goes through to the control room as an emergency call. This felt like another reminder that Cadets is more than just a youth group – they’re using real police equipment with no room for messing around.

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It’s really valuable how the Cadets Group encompasses not only police-specific skills, but life skills too – the Phonetic Alphabet will come in handy no matter what career path they choose to take.
This year the band was privileged to play for a number of international dignitaries. As well as meeting some of the dignitaries, the band also had the opportunity to meet some local people after they had performed a concert for them, as well as members of the public from all across the United Kingdom and around the world.

The Musical Director, Alan Jazwinski, (a retired Detective Constable) was honoured this year when he was presented with a special Medal of Friendship in recognition of the service which the band has given to the 3rd Line Regiment, and the band has been approached to play in 2020 at other engagements further afield in Belgium.

The band has been the guest of the Local Chief of Police, Alain Matton, for over 10 years after links were made by a previous band manager, retired PC Keith Williams. Keith had conducted research into Police Officers who had served in the West Riding area and also served in the First World War, and this began a friendship with Belgian colleagues which continues to this day.

Even though this year was one of the wettest the band has experienced, their spirits remained high as they focused on the privilege of playing for all those who gave their lives for us, and this month they look forward to a busy diary entertaining the people of West Yorkshire.

Photo Credit: Charlotte Graham, Professional Photographer, who accompanied the band on this year’s trip.

WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE BAND VISIT BELGIUM

“I can’t believe how much it’s rained”. This was a comment made by one of the Police Volunteers who made up the West Yorkshire Police Band during a recent trip to Ypres in Belgium, but it could easily have been heard from the mouths of those who served in Belgium and France during World War 1. The Band led a series of parades and services which took place in and around Ypres on Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day.

The band has been the guest of the Local Chief of Police, Alain Matton, for over 10 years after links were made by a previous band manager, retired PC Keith Williams. Keith had conducted research into Police Officers who had served in the West Riding area and also served in the First World War, and this began a friendship with Belgian colleagues which continues to this day.

POLICE SUPPORT VOLUNTEER FERRERS AWARDS WINNER 2019

Claire Hopkins was the Police Support Volunteer Winner at the Home Office hosted Lord Ferrers Awards held in October 2019 at Lancaster House in London. We learn more about why she is a worthy winner.

Broadbury Road Police Station had been developing an extensive understanding of modern slavery, starting as a neighbourhood enquiry it evolved to a full operation investigating hand car washes and associated business, exploiting illegal immigrants through a network of hand car washes operating across Bristol and South Gloucestershire. The lead officers had developed a significant amount of information resulting in a complex investigation.

Claire initially joined Avon and Somerset Constabulary as a Police Support Volunteer to support the Neighbourhood Teams. Part of her initial role was assisting with the accumulation of information and having gained such a wealth of knowledge, her role evolved significantly, supporting the officers leading on the modern slavery work.

Claire was initially involved in the pulling together of the vast amount of information obtained for this investigation. However Claire’s enthusiasm and close relationship with the officers whilst undertaking this task meant she was exposed to the ongoing investigation and soon she was producing draft and template documents for officers to use on visits.

Claire formed part of the debrief where discussion took place with officers, partner agencies and other departments to ensure all the relevant information was in place to progress the operation.

Claire willingly made herself available to sit on the training for front office staff. More impressively was the fact that this training content used the briefing document Claire had produced, which helped her make the connections with the front office role and how it fitted in with the organisation. Claire would chase up enquiries to get the information from vehicles seizures from the Operation as well to ensure the information was added onto systems, to develop the intelligence picture. Claire acquired an in-depth knowledge in terms of understanding modern slavery, ensuring modern slavery referrals were being correctly completed and even helped an officer complete a national referral mechanism process guiding them with forms and information needed.

Claire’s work resulted in a comprehensive briefing pack being available for all colleagues to use that can be adapted for any work place. Claire’s energy and enthusiasm has driven a whole team momentum, supporting operational visits, ensuring behind the scenes all the information gathered by officers is recorded and that officers action their tasks from Claire to build a picture.

Claire’s support on this Operation has allowed officers back to their core work more quickly as they are not tied up with administrative tasks and secondly it has alleviated some of the stress from officers with having Claire on hand to support them.

Claire is a key component of the team, her knowledge and enthusiasm stands out from the norm, she has not sat as a back seat passenger and she joins each Operation - often surprising many who think volunteers are just kept behind the scenes. Claire’s organisational skills has helped produce the relevant information, which is part of the reason the team have had success in this area of business.

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On Friday 4 October GMP held the fourth annual STARS Awards. Officers and staff from around the Force were invited to a special evening to celebrate fantastic achievements. Held in the stunning Gorton Monastery for the second year, the STARS Awards help to acknowledge the exceptional work that takes place on a daily basis across the Force. Everyone who attended was nominated by their colleagues and peers, who recognised their excellent achievements.

The ceremony was opened by Chief Constable Ian Hopkins QPM who commented: “The STARS are a great opportunity for us to recognise the significant achievements and amazing work that is done across the Force. It is a time to say thank you from me, from GMP and from the people of Greater Manchester for what you have done despite the challenges we face.”

The Awards were presented by Coronation Street’s Cheryl Lee Houston and Melissa Johns, who are patrons of the Triple C Charity that encourage disabled people to enjoy the arts, singing and acting. The event was also attended by Lord Lieutenant Warren Smith, High Sheriff Mark Adlestone and Chairman of Gorton Monastery Paul Griffiths.

Anne Addison who is a Police Support Volunteer in the vetting department was a winner in the “Service” Category.

The Winner in the Sir John Zochonis Award was Volunteer Police Cadet Jodie Nickerson. Also recognised for Leadership were the Stockport Voluntary Police Cadet Team Leaders and Wigan & Leigh Voluntary Police Cadets won the Team Award.

Jamie Tang was the winner of the Volunteer Award at the South Yorkshire Police Force Awards. He joined South Yorkshire Police as a Junior Cadet in September 2016, based in Doncaster. Jamie is 16 years of age and is currently a Volunteer Cadet Leader in Doncaster District.

Jamie has attended every Wednesday evening Cadet night since joining the programme. He is an exceptional young man who has committed himself to the programme from the very beginning, always making valuable contributions to the Cadet nights.

In addition to attending the Wednesday evening Cadet nights Jamie has also attended community events, taken part in test purchase operations and assisted all four Districts with operations and parades. In total, since joining the programme Jamie has attended 69 duties consisting of 223 volunteering hours.

Jamie is always smart and takes pride in promoting South Yorkshire Police in a positive light. He is always professional and is a great ambassador for the Force and young people in general.

Emma Sharrock was presented personally with her Certificate of Service by Chief Constable Ian Hopkins QPM as she leaves her role as a Police Support Volunteer to embark on her paid career. Emma has volunteered with the Force for four years whilst studying. She graduated in Criminological and Forensic Psychology BSc at The University of Bolton with a First Class Degree with Honours, and then achieved her Masters earlier this year.

Emma’s original role was helping in the Public Protection Investigation Unit at Rochdale Police Station, and after 3 years in this role, wanting to progress and develop further, she was offered a role in the Sexual Offender Management Unit. This role was a lot more hands on as involved telephone contact with individuals to check on their welfare and then inform the officer in charge if any conditions have been breached or if they presented as a concern during the call. She also continued with transcribing interviews for the officers, as this was a task she really enjoyed.

Emma volunteered a total of 750 hours throughout her time with Greater Manchester Police which averages 16 hours per month which is an amazing contribution to policing.

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SOUTH WEST REGION

VOtunteer Awards 2019

Special Constabulary and Police Support Volunteer Awards 2019

Special Constables, Cadet Leaders and Volunteer Drivers were amongst the dedicated Police Volunteers commended at the South West Region Special Constabulary and Police Volunteer Awards on Sunday 13 October 2019.

This year hosted by Avon and Somerset Police at Somerset County Cricket ground in Taunton, the awards recognise the time, effort and invaluable contributions given by those who volunteer in policing across the entire South West region. The event was compered by former footballer and Vice-President of Show Racism The Red Card; Leroy Rosenior MBE, and attended by Police Volunteers, Police staff and senior officials from all South West Constabularies.

Winners were announced across five categories: Police Support Volunteer of the Year, Special Constable of the Year Award, Police Support Volunteer Team of the Year Award, Police Support Volunteer of the Year Award, POLICE SUPPORT VOLUNTEER TEAM OF THE YEAR AWARD

Volunteer Driver Service Team was awarded for its professionalism, flexibility and ‘can do’ attitude. The Volunteer Driver Service launched in Patchway in December 2017, helping to transport officers to important tasks such as attending court. In the first year of operation custody was the biggest user of the service which has resulted in the saving of 927 hours of police officer and PCSO time, an equivalent cost saving of £11,310. A further £3,906 has been saved on direct costs including car parking. In addition to saving money, the scheme has helped reduce pressures associated with travel like dealing with traffic, finding parking and leaving sufficient time.

SOUTH WEST REGION

POLICE SUPPORT VOLUNTEER TEAM OF THE YEAR AWARD

Avon and Somerset Police’s Volunteer Driver Service Team was awarded for its professionalism, flexibility and ‘can do’ attitude. The Volunteer Driver Service launched in Patchway in December 2017, helping to transport officers to important tasks such as attending court. In the first year of operation custody was the biggest user of the service which has resulted in the saving of 927 hours of police officer and PCSO time, an equivalent cost saving of £11,310. A further £3,906 has been saved on direct costs including car parking. In addition to saving money, the scheme has helped reduce pressures associated with travel like dealing with traffic, finding parking and leaving sufficient time.

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Citizens in policing