



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

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

GMP recruits young people between the ages of 13 and 17 years. Young people can remain Cadets within their Unit until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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

You don't need any experience, skills or qualifications to be a cadet. All we ask is that you commit to attending regularly, volunteer 3 hours per month after the probation period, and strive to improve yourself and your local community.

### **3. Can I still join if I have special needs?**

The scheme welcomes young people of all abilities. If a recruit has special requirements this will, wherever possible be accommodated, if necessary utilising the support of a carer provided by the cadet.

### **4. I don't live in Greater Manchester can I still join?**

We are only able to offer places to young people living, or being educated, in Greater Manchester. Each VPC Unit is linked to local policing and most are based within educational premises.

### **5. Are there open days?**

We currently do not offer open days. However, if you contact your local unit they can arrange for you to come along and observe one of the evenings so you can see what it is like.

### **6. I'm too young to join what else can I do?**

You could look at details of other uniformed youth groups such as Scouts, Guides, St. John's Ambulance, Sea and Army cadets.

### **7. I'm too old to join what else can I do?**

There are other volunteering opportunities within Greater Manchester Police including the Special Constabulary and Police Support Volunteers. See our web site for details.

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

Units meet once a week in the evening and are additionally involved in activities at weekends and during school holidays. Cadets also volunteer 3 hours per month in support of local policing.

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

Joining the cadets is free as the scheme provide your uniform and fund any trips arranged.

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

There is no specific equipment you need in order to join the cadets. We recommend bringing a pen and pad to write down notes and to take in information when at Cadet meetings/events.

### **11. Can I just go along and see what it is like?**

You will need to speak to the Unit Leader to arrange to go along.

### **12. Will it help me join the Police Force?**

The Volunteer Police Cadets will provide you with an insight into policing. However, there are no guarantees that this will lead to either paid or voluntary work within the wider Police family.

### **13. Can I still join if I have been in trouble with the police?**

In most cases the answer to this is yes. However, each case will be considered on merit.

### **14. What do Volunteer Police Cadets do?**

Volunteer Police Cadets, help and assist in the community by getting involved in stewarding in local events such as fairs, town shows, carnivals and other local events.

We also help the local Integrated Neighbourhood Policing Teams through leaflet drops, crime prevention initiatives, community safety events and street surveys.

Police Cadets are taught basic knowledge in a variety of policing activity. We explore issues around drugs, alcohol and anti-social behaviour. We look at specialist Police posts such as the dog section, mounted section etc.

Inputs are provided in first aid, personal safety, conflict management, and leadership.

We have a big interest in teamwork within the Cadets taking part in sports, camping and outdoor events. There will be an opportunity to gain the Duke of Edinburgh award.

We practice drill on a regular basis.

For any further information on the Volunteer Police Cadets, please visit our website [www.vpc.police.uk](http://www.vpc.police.uk) or [www.gmp.police.uk](http://www.gmp.police.uk)