

VALUE FOR MONEY

EXTENDED POLICE FAMILY

Background

In 2008 the Authority identified a need to have a Lead Member for the Extended Police Family in recognition of the excellent value for money provided by volunteers to Sussex Police, which includes special constables, cadets and civilian volunteers.

The Authority adding value

The Authority appointed Mrs Carole Shaves as the Lead Member for the Extended Police Family. Mrs Shaves has become heavily involved in all aspects for this Lead Member role, including performing attestations for student officers, pushing for extensions to the training of student officers to include Court Simulation training (of which Mrs Shaves and Mr Alan Price, of the Authority, undertake as part of the Student Officer Course), but also strong support and encouragement to the work of Sussex Police Cadets, including attending parades as inspecting Member and presenting to cadets on the role of the Police Authority.

Sussex Police Cadets, until relatively recently, were able to accompany police officers on routine foot patrol and this was a valuable additional visible presence within communities and also helped encourage the enthusiasm that existed within the cadets to explore to future careers within Sussex Police. Due to concerns over the health and safety of the cadets whilst on patrol, this arrangement was withdrawn, much to the frustration of the cadets themselves.

Mrs Shaves identified that there would be a valuable role for cadets to play in helping run `street briefings` and `meet the people events` where both the Authority and the Force were engaging with the public.

Outcome

As a result of Mrs Shaves' intervention, the policy for cadet deployment has now been changed and Sussex Police Cadets now regularly assist Sussex Police officers at `street meetings and `meet the people events` where members and officers of the Authority and Sussex Police meet the public. These events include the 999 Show in Eastbourne, the South of England Show, and Pride.

Cadets have welcomed this additional responsibility and it has been a very useful means of interacting with other young people and the wider community. The cadets are able to engage with the public and assist in issues such as crowd control, lost property and providing a general reassuring presence.

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