



Corporate Responsibility

#NextGen returns to ISE

For the second year in a row, the Security Institute was thrilled to partner with the Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC) and bring a group of Volunteer Cadets to International Security Expo in December 2019.

The group of 50 Cadets, aged 15 - 18, represented the Essex, Hampshire, Met, Manchester, Norfolk, Surrey and Wiltshire Police Cadets as well as the London Fire Cadets.

Their day started with a talk from our #NextGen Director, Paul Barnard MSyl, which stressed the demand for young talent within the security industry and highlighted to the Cadets the vast amount of opportunities available within the sector. Our Media Advisor Anna Averkiou then took to the stage and spoke about her career within the Media as a reporter, which helped emphasise the diverse range of roles that are linked to security. Having Anna speak helped many of the Cadets realise that a vast majority of their subjects at school are relevant to security careers, as well as realise how transferable the skills they gain through their experience within the Cadets can be.



A panel discussion with Anna Averkiou, Alison Jackson from Nineteen Events, Michael Bell ASyl from Canary Wharf Group and Lawrence Stone from Pafi Ltd then followed. The Cadets asked a great array of questions that focused on everything from GDPR, to the logistics of CCTV surveillance and the security considerations behind large scale events such as ISE. It was great to see so many of the young people engaging with the professional panel, and seizing the opportunity to gain insight from those with years of relevant experience.

Michael Bell ASyl, has repeatedly volunteered his time to support our #NextGen events. He noted that: "We as professionals have the responsibility to promote self-education, planting the seed for the individual to grow."

Following the panel discussion, the Cadets then toured around the exhibition in small groups and spoke to the various organisations that were exhibiting. Many of the Cadets got involved with live-demonstrations of some of the industry's cutting-edge technology, again often asking insightful questions about the engineering of the products and the various risks we currently face.



Speaking after the event, Anna Averkiou commented: “This year’s ISE (2019) was my most enjoyable trade event to date – in part because the Next Gen participants were so enthusiastic about future career possibilities. After the initial talk, I kept bumping into them around the stands and they seemed to be asking all the right questions! The Security Institute’s initiative is impressive and I do hope that as many organisations as possible are able to offer work experience and apprenticeships to help these young people get their feet on the jobs ladder.”

The feedback given by the Cadets indicates how meaningful experiences provided through the #NextGen initiative are.

Greater Manchester cadet Malinka (17) said: “Coming to the International Security Expo event was an amazing experience, this is a much bigger field than many of us realised. It was really good to hear more about #NextGen and I was proud to stand up and talk about the Volunteer Police Cadets, so thank you!”

London Fire Brigade Cadet Kleria (18) said: “This was a first for us, coming to an event of this size with our VPC partners. We are so proud to represent the London Fire Brigade and meet specialist teams, major companies and others out there keeping people safe. We learned new things, got to experience some cool equipment, learned about loads of new career options we didn’t know existed - What a fab day.”

Malinka and Kleria are now two of over 300 young people that have had the opportunity to engage with the security industry as part of our #NextGen initiative. As we enter 2020, our partnership with the VPC and various industry exhibitions will continue, allowing even more young people to learn about the security industry.

A massive thank you to ISE and all the volunteers that supported this event and made the day as informative and enjoyable as possible for the Cadets.

