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Contact: Toby Shergold

Telephone: 01905 331 674

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## **Brownies take over Police HQ as they mark 100 years**

West Mercia Police Headquarters was invaded by Brownies this weekend as part of their celebrations to mark 100 years of the Guiding movement.

Some 70 Brownies from across Worcestershire visited Hindlip Hall on Saturday and Sunday (8-9 May) with an overnight sleepover. They took over the staff canteen and sports hall for a variety of activities such as team games, music and crafts. They then camped out in sleeping bags in the sports hall for a sleepover.

It was an opportunity for the girls to meet police officers and they were introduced to local policing teams and officers from the Central Motorway Police Group, who showed them a number of vehicles. This included one of their brand new Jaguar XF diesel response cars, the latest addition to their fleet.

Community Support Officers also attended and handed out Cop Cards to the girls, who proved to be avid collectors.

The brownies are celebrating 100 years of Guiding this year and as part of their celebrations they have several activities planned, which also include a climb of the clock tower in Abberley and a camp in Wales.

Detective Sergeant Mel Paley, whose daughter is a local Brownie and organised the sleepover, said: "The event has been a huge success. The Brownies have experienced some interesting aspects of life at police HQ, including visiting the Call Management Centre to see where 999 calls are received.

"They were also pleased to meet the CSOs and they have all now begun their Cop Cards collections and are keen to complete the full set.

"The sleepover was a fantastic opportunity to forge closer links between our younger community members and West Mercia Police and for the girls to learn some important safety messages."

Brownie Amara Harniman of 1st Abberley & Witley unit said: "We've had a fantastic time. The police motorcycle was amazing; we couldn't believe how big it was!"

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Brownie leader Gill Bevan of 1st Abberley & Witley, who also organised the event, said: "We would like to thank West Mercia Police for hosting the sleepover and we have all had a wonderful time celebrating 100 years of Guiding. I would like to thank all the officers and staff who gave up their time to show our Brownies what West Mercia is all about. They all had great fun and I have to say that there wasn't much actual sleeping done."

## Notes to Editors

The Brownie units that attended were:

1st Abberley & Witley  
1st Clifton  
1st Broadwas  
1st Stourport  
4th Stourport  
1st Arley Kings