

Cumbria Police are launching a 'Bobby Buddies' scheme from 27th August whereby they will be able to issue a small hand-knitted teddy bear to children they deal with in distressing or traumatic situations. The scheme is running as a pilot in North Cumbria with a view to being rolled out in West and South Cumbria in the coming months.

One bear will be stored in each patrol vehicle and will be distributed as and when Officers feel they would be beneficial to support or comfort a child who may be upset, scared and vulnerable. It will be open to officers' judgement as to when they may feel a bear would be useful. Examples of incidents could include:

* Road traffic collisions
* Domestic incidents
* Missing person enquiries
* Child neglect
* Other instances whereby a child is a victim of crime

The bears are being knitted by volunteer organisations and local knitting groups and we are also appealing to the community – a copy of the knitting pattern is attached below.

We are looking at funding for wool if that would help groups who wish to knit Bobby Buddies. If Knit & Natter groups want to take part and would like their knitting to be collected and delivered to the Police, let me know as we have a volunteer who is willing to do this.

Please contact Maria Hewitt, Community Development Officer for Copeland, Cumbria County Council on 01946 505019, or email maria.hewitt@cumbria.gov.uk for further information.

**Bobby Buddies’ knitting pattern - Page 1**

**This initiative will allow Cumbria Police to share your lovingly knitted bear with a child going through a distressing experience.**

If you provide your name then the child will be able to know who handmade their buddy.

Please hand them in to the front counter of your localpolice station.

**Materials**

**•** Double knitting wool: black, yellow, grey and brown (or other colour for the head), blue (optional)

**•** 3¼mm knitting needles

**•** Please do NOT use beads or buttons as they are a choking hazard

**Legs**

**•** 1st leg: In black wool, cast on 5 stitches

**•** Next row: Knit 1, make 1, knit 1, make 1, continue to the end of the row, making 9stitches

**•** Next row: Knit 1, make 1, knit 1, make 1, continue to the end of the row, making 17stitches

**•** Continue in garter stitch and work 17 rows

**•** Break yarn and push these stitches to the left hand side of the needle

**•** 2nd leg: Repeat as per 1st leg, but don’t break the yarn

**•** Join legs

**•** Next row: Knit across, 17 stitches increase 1 stitch into the last stitch, then knit across the remaining 17 stitches of the first leg

**Arms (make two)**

**•** In black wool, cast on 3 stitches and knit 1 row

**•** Increase 1st at each end of the row for 6 rows making 15stitches

**•** Continue knitting 13 rows

**•** Next row: Knit 1, knit 2 together to end, making 8 stitches

**•** Next row: Knit 2 together making 4 stitches

**•** Break yarn leaving a length for making up, thread through remaining stitches, pull tightly and fasten off

**•** Repeat for second arm

**Radio**

**•** In grey wool, cast on 4 stitches

**•** Next row: Knit 4 rows, cast off

**•** Stitch to either side of the chest with black wool, to make radio aerial

**Body**

**•** Continue in black wool for a further 9 rows, change to yellow wool and knit a further17 rows

**•** Shape shoulders: Knit 7stitches, knit 2 stitches together twice. Knit 13stitches, then knit 2 together, knit 7 to make 31 stitches

**•** Next row: Knit 1 row

**•** Next row: K6, K2 tog twice.K11 stitches, K2 together twice, K6 to make 27 stitches

**•** Next row: Knit 1 row.

**•** Next row: Knit 1, K2 together to the end of the row, making14 stitches

**Head**

**•** Change to brown wool, or desired head colour wool

**•** Next row knit1, make 1, knit 1 to end of row making 27 stitches

**•** Knit 1 row

**•** Next row (K6, M1, K1, M1, K6) K1 repeat from ( ) making 31 stitches

**•** Knit 1 row

**•** (K7, M1, K1, M1, K7) K1 repeat from ( ) making 35 stitches

**•** Continue knitting 9 rows

**•** Shape the head: K7 (K2 tog twice, K13, K2together twice) K7 making 31 stitches

**•** Knit 1 row

**•** Knit 6, K2 tog twice, knit 11, K2 tog twice, K6making 27 stitches

**•** Knit 1 row

**•** K1, K2 tog to end of row making 14stitches

**•** Break off yarn and thread through stitches and draw up

**Face**

**•** Stitch eyes, nose and mouth using black wool (remember NO buttons or beads!)

**Ears**

**•** Cast on 5 stitches, knit 4 rows

**•** Next row: Knit 2 together, knit 1, knit 2together

**•** Next row: Increase 1 stitch at end of the next row and knit 4 rows, then cast off

**•** Repeat for second ear, and attach to top of head

**Make up the bear**

Sew seam down the back of the head (leaving space at top to stuff), continue seam down the back. Fold legs and sew up seams

**•** When all seams and are stitched, place stuffing into gap at top of head

**•** Draw up stitches and fasten tightly

**•** (Optional) Add a few rows of blue wool to the back of the yellow to make the ‘Police’ label