

Update from Surrey Police Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave

September 2016



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Did you get the opportunity to watch the television series Rookies that aired on ITV recently? If not, I would urge you to go onto the ITV Hub and catch up. It was a three part documentary, showing on 23 August, 30 August and 6 September, following some of our newest recruits undertaking their initial training and then tracking their journey from members of the public to fully fledged police officers.

The series highlighted the breadth of policing, from dealing with a horse on the loose to a suspected suicide. Our officers and operational staff could be faced with anything when they're on patrol or at work.

I believe it is really important to support our staff so they can respond in the best possible way to whatever challenging situation they face. Therefore, the Force has a big emphasis on continually developing skills and debriefing. Making sure that we pass on best practice and on the occasions when not everything goes right we learn from it, so we are as prepared as we can be for next time.

Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave



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Performance improvements

Many of you will be aware that we have been really focused on improving the quality of our investigations and the outcomes we achieve from them, so it's encouraging to be able to update you that, while we have further to go, we are seeing improvements.

Our detection rates for high harm crime such as serious sexual offences, child abuse and domestic abuse have been increasing over the past year. This not only means that more offenders are brought to justice, but also that victims of crime are better protected.

This improvement is a result of a lot of hard work and dedication by officers and staff to safeguard those most at risk and get the evidence to convict perpetrators. I hope with our continued determination and attention we'll continue to see this upward trend over the coming months and years.

Working together, improving together

Another way we are working to safeguard the most vulnerable members of our community is in the development of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), in partnership with Surrey County Council and our local health authorities.

The new MASH will launch on 5 October and aims to improve information sharing between partner agencies. It will allow us collectively to better identify safeguarding issues, and efficiently share these with the right organisations so that action can be taken to protect those most vulnerable.

The MASH will help build a comprehensive view of vulnerability and safeguarding issues across the county. This will be continually updated to keep it relevant and to enable us to make sure we have the appropriate response being focused on the right areas.

We all recognise as a partnership we need to continue to build and improve our ability to identify and protect vulnerable people and I'm confident the MASH will be integral to this.

Operational successes

Here is this month's round up of just some of our operational successes:

- The courage of three women has ensured that an Addlestone man who preyed on vulnerable women has been brought to justice. The 51 year old man has been sentenced to nine years in prison after being found guilty of two sexual assaults and a rape.
- A 37 year old man from Essex has been charged in connection with an allegation of serious sexual assault on a teenage girl that took place in Surrey in 2010. He was subsequently charged with two counts of rape and one count of sexual assault by penetration and awaits trial.
- A Basingstoke man has been sentenced to 42 months' imprisonment after pleading guilty to causing death by careless driving whilst under the influence of drink.

Operational successes (Continued)

- A woman was rescued by two quick thinking officers when she suffered a medical episode leaving her car teetering over the edge of the River Thames. With support from members of the public and other emergency services the woman's car was secured and she was able to be taken to hospital for treatment.
- A man has been jailed for seven and a half and is prohibited from having unsupervised access to children under 16 after being found guilty of a number of non-recent sexual offences in Surrey. Offences took place in 1984 and between 2000 and 2002.
- Former radio presenter Christopher Denning has pleaded guilty to non-recent sexual offences against children. The offences were investigated as part of the Operation Ravine investigation linked to the Walton Hop Disco that took place in the 1970s and 1980s. The offences include six counts of indecent assault against four boys under 16 and two counts of gross indecency against boys under the age of 14.



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