

Update from Surrey Police Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave



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I am delighted to tell you that the Police and Crime Panel officially confirmed me in the role of Chief Constable of Surrey Police on 5 July. This followed a really tough selection process in June and sincere thanks to everyone who wished me luck along the way – having your support gave me great confidence and made a huge difference for me.

Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave

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Evolution not revolution

My appointment, however, doesn't herald a new broom making sweeping changes; my approach will be more evolution than revolution. Together with the rest of the Chief Officer Group, I will be building the momentum we have established and maintaining the progress we are making on our priorities to pursue offenders, protect vulnerable people and prevent crime and disorder. My aim is to make Surrey the safest county it can possibly be and I'm pleased to report we are seeing some great results.

The election of new Police and Crime Commissioner, David Munro, confirms this direction of travel as his Police and Crime Plan and my operational business plan are closely aligned and very much working towards the same goals. I'm looking forward to developing a really productive relationship with the Police and Crime Commissioner to make our plans a reality over the coming years.

Alongside improving operational outcomes, one of the most important things a leader must do is to think in the long term, and to create a positive legacy for the organisation - a gift for the future. I am very clear in my mind about the nature of the legacy this leadership team can leave and it has three elements; a quality estate, a talented, representative workforce and consistent high performance.

In the coming months I will be working with the PCC and our senior team to start to develop long term strategies and plans to deliver these three elements. It is likely that these plans will take a number of years to come to fruition so don't expect overnight changes, but slowly, carefully and purposefully we will start to work out what we need to do to achieve them and how they impact and complement the work that all of you are progressing across the County.

Improving our response to vulnerability

Many of you will be aware that over the last year we have been investing huge time, effort and resources to respond to the significant increase in public protection reports to us as well as making many improvements to how we protect the vulnerable.

To keep you up to date on this critical area of our work, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary recently revisited us to check whether we were making progress on the areas for improvement identified in the Vulnerability Inspection from last year.

I'm really pleased to say they have now published their report and it recognises the significant amount of work we have been doing and how we are improving our capacity and capability to better protect the most vulnerable in our communities. I'm very conscious that the work isn't finished yet and that many of you are working with us to provide a better service. Nevertheless, it is right to stop for a moment, take a breather and recognise without complacency that we are heading in the right direction.

Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week

An example of what we are doing operationally to deliver on our priorities is the Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week starting on Monday, 18 July. Throughout the week we will be working closely with partner organisations to positively address the anti-social behaviour that is causing the most impact on individuals or on wider communities in each borough, protecting the people who are too vulnerable or too scared to protect themselves and pursuing the bullies responsible for ASB.

This is part of our core role and as you can see from the operational successes below, the Awareness Week is just part of our ongoing partnership work in this area.

Operational Successes

- As part of our priority to protect the public, in conjunction with borough councils and housing providers, we have made significant progress in tackling anti-social behaviour over the last month. This has included two Criminal Behaviour Orders banning two men from entering parts of Guildford. The Orders are designed to safeguard vulnerable people in the borough who the men were targeting for their possessions. Meanwhile, over in Walton-on-Thames a Closure Order has been issued on a flat following several complaints from nearby residents about anti-social behaviour and noise disruption
- A 75-year-old man from London has been charged with six sexual offences against four boys under the age of 16 during the 1960s and 1970s. The charges relate to the wider investigation into other non-recent sexual offences connected to the Walton Hop Disco

- A 15-year prison sentence, with an additional five years on licence, has been handed to an Egham man following an attempted knifepoint rape of a woman unknown to him earlier this year. This incident sent shockwaves through the Egham community and I hope the sentence will provide some reassurance to residents. The man was also sentenced to eight years for threats to kill and three years for possession of the knife – both to run concurrently
 - Three men from Guildford have been charged with affray following an attempted murder in Burpham last month. The victim of the attack, a 21-year-old local man, suffered serious head, arm and leg injuries. Another Guildford man has previously been charged with two counts of attempted murder, dangerous driving, affray and criminal damage in relation to the same incident
 - An Epsom man has been charged with two counts of wounding with intent, two counts of rape, kidnap, false imprisonment, possession of an offensive weapon, affray and common assault following a number of incidents in Epsom on 17 June.
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Key Diary Dates

Anti-social Behaviour Awareness Week: Countrywide w/c 18 July

Prudential Ride London: 30 - 31 July



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