

Update from Surrey Police T/Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave

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We have faced some difficult media headlines in recent weeks, so in this month's bulletin I have summarised some of the key findings from our recent Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) reports, whilst also sharing with you those improvements that are starting to drive positive results in some of these areas.

T/Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave

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HMIC Legitimacy Report

Firstly, I am of course pleased to share the news that the HMIC Legitimacy Report, published earlier this month as part of the HMIC's series of PEEL (Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy) inspections, gave Surrey Police an overall rating as 'good'.

The report praised the Force for its reinforcement of the importance of ethical behaviour, its good community engagement, and for treating people fairly and with respect.

Other highlights of the report included:

- Surrey Police is good at keeping people safe and reducing crime and does so legitimately
- Ethical behaviour is embedded within the Force, with regular discussions at all levels on ethical issues. Officers and staff understand how their actions affect public trust and satisfaction
- Surrey Police is committed to community focused policing, engaging well with communities at Force, borough and neighbourhood levels through local teams and social media and understands what works successfully with the community
- Officers and staff were found to be polite, friendly and helpful, with the people of Surrey being reassured that they will be treated fairly and with respect
- Taser was found to be used fairly and appropriately in Surrey.

Police Effectiveness Report

In the second HMIC report, published this month, Surrey Police has been rated 'good' for preventing crime and anti-social behaviour and for keeping people safe. However, the report stated that improvement is required in other areas.

The Force has a long tradition at being effective at making Surrey one of the country's safest counties and I'm pleased that we have maintained this in spite of challenging budgets.

I recognise, though, that this potentially came at the expense of the Force's capacity to deliver universally effective investigations and we also have more progress to make in protecting the vulnerable from harm.

I would stress that the Police Effectiveness report is a snapshot in time and, as you will be aware from previous bulletins from Lynne Owens, we have been tackling these concerns head on for over a year. We have done this by increasing resources to protect the vulnerable, more training, better processes and use of systems, as well as a culture change in how the Force operates. None of these can provide an instant fix, but our latest performance figures show that together they are starting to deliver positive results.

We have made real progress with detections and successful outcomes at court across almost all crime types. This means we have significantly improved our rankings for positive outcomes (detections in old money) in the national league tables. Most notably, rising 17 places for violence without injury detections. We have also improved our rankings for detecting violence without injury, serious sexual assaults and rape offences.

This not only means that more offenders are brought to justice, but also that victims of crime are better protected and see the criminal justice system being effective in supporting them.

A lot of hard work over a long period has gone into making these improvements happen. The work is not complete, of course, and more needs to be done building on what we have achieved thus far.

Policing Matters Campaign

As I mentioned in last month's bulletin, an estimated 20% of calls we receive are not police business. To tackle this, and thereby reduce waiting times and prioritise our resources where they are really needed, we are currently running a campaign to help the public understand what is and isn't a policing matter and what is and isn't an emergency. We have sent out posters to borough councils, pharmacies, doctors' surgeries, libraries, banks, community and leisure centres across the county. Please could I ask for your help in putting them on public boards and sharing our social media messages to spread the message as widely as possible across Surrey. You can follow the campaign on social media using #PolicingMatters.

If you would like some packs of posters, please email campaigns@surrey.pnn.police.uk.

Operational successes

This month's round-up of just some of our operational successes illustrates the changing nature of crime and the increase in cases involving sexual offences and child sexual exploitation.

- Three men stop checked by an officer said they were meeting a female friend. Just three hours later a vulnerable 17-year-old girl of the same name was reported missing. The officer who conducted the stop check made the connection and the risk of child sexual exploitation was identified. Using Automatic Number Plate Recognition to narrow the search and effective co-ordination with other forces, the girl and the suspects were found in the north of England. All three men were arrested and the vulnerable girl was kept safe.
- A Croydon man has been jailed for 18 years after being found guilty of murdering a man in a Woking hotel last year. Khalilur Rahman died as the result of an unprovoked, viciously brutal and sustained assault. Thanks to the professionalism of the investigative team the man was arrested within 24 hours of the incident.
- Thanks to the diligence of the officer who had been assigned to manage a convicted sex offender in the community, his review of the case file found that a Sexual Harm Prevention Order (which is designed to stop an offender from engaging in similar activities which led to their offending) had not been granted by the court. This was successfully challenged and not only was a ten year SHPO granted, but the original suspended sentence for attempting to cause/incite a boy under 13 to engage in sexual activity was increased to two years and four months imprisonment. He was also placed on the sex offender register for ten rather than seven years.
- Extensive enquiries have led to the conviction of a man on three counts of harassment. On separate occasions he was found to have distressed three young female students in Camberley by following them in his car at walking pace, leering and waving at them. He was given a 24 month community order, 60 days of rehabilitation work and handed a five year Sexual Harm Prevention Order.

- On a routine visit to a man on the Sexual Offenders Register officers noticed a photograph of a child. On being questioned he revealed her name and some details of where she lived but said he had not been in contact recently. However, enquiries established that the offender had in fact babysat for the girl's family and had supervised her alone. The girl subsequently revealed that she had been sexually abused by him four years ago. The investigation is ongoing.

Key diary dates

Mole Valley Crime Summit:

7pm - 9pm, Monday, 29 February
Dorking Halls, Dorking

Understanding Coercive Control:

9.30am - 1.30pm, Thursday, 10 March

An event aimed at leaders, supervisors and practitioners responsible for domestic abuse prevention, early intervention, response and safeguarding of vulnerable people.

To book tickets, visit <http://understandingcoercivecontrol.eventbrite.co.uk>



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