

Update from Surrey Police T/Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave



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Following Lynne Owens' appointment as Director General of the National Crime Agency, I have been appointed as Temporary Chief Constable until a permanent successor is selected following the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May. For the avoidance of any doubt, I do intend to apply for the permanent post at the appropriate time.

The appointment is a tremendous privilege for me - as you may know, I joined Surrey Police in July 2013 as Deputy Chief Constable after 23 years' service with the Metropolitan Police. I was born and raised in Surrey and have raised my own family here, so I am extremely proud to have the opportunity to take over the leadership of Surrey Police and help shape the future of policing in the county.

Despite the temporary nature of my current role, I intend to get on with the job at full throttle and take up the challenges that face us, from improving our public protection capacity response to preparing for the new terrorist threat. Clearly, I will build on the work already in progress and am fully committed to the implementation of our new Policing in Your Neighbourhood model (of which more below), that will enable us to deal robustly with the changing demand and offending patterns explained previously in this bulletin and in our recent stakeholder events.

T/Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave

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Policing in Your Neighbourhood – your questions answered

As you may be aware, over the past two months we have held six briefings countywide to brief stakeholders about Policing in Your Neighbourhood.

The main questions to come out of those sessions were:

- **How will we continue to engage effectively with our communities?** We will be retaining Neighbourhood Inspectors and PCSOs who will be a central point of contact in each of the 11 boroughs. PCSOs will continue to belong to each Safer Neighbourhood Team area. We are also continuing to develop opportunities to enhance how communities are updated about matters relating to their neighbourhood. This will be a mix of online messaging and contact with your local neighbourhood teams, including face-to-face meetings where they are well- attended and effective.
- **The amount of time it takes to get through to the Force via the phone.** We know that at peak times it can take too long to get through to us on 101. Part of the problem is that an estimated 20% of calls we receive are not police business. To tackle this, and thereby reduce waiting times, we are launching a campaign which will run through February and March to help the Surrey public understand what is and isn't a policing matter, with examples of who they should contact in specific scenarios. The campaign will be countywide and will feature a series of advertisements on Sky TV, cinemas, local radio and posters. If you would like some posters to display in your organisation, particularly in your call handling teams and public areas, please email the following address: campaigns@surrey.pnn.police.uk
- **Some of our more rural communities have expressed concerns that they will be forgotten.** The overall number of officers available to be deployed by the local Neighbourhood Inspectors will increase under our new model. Some communities have thankfully low levels of reported crime, so it is right that we make informed decisions about where best to focus our resources. This may mean the removal of some dedicated resource to those areas, but be reassured that if there is a policing need we will service it and we recognise the very different crime concerns our rural communities have compared to our urban areas.

Body worn cameras to be introduced

Back in June your opinions were sought via this bulletin on the subject of body worn cameras. The majority of those who responded were in favour of us adopting this technology.

I am pleased to report that that the decision has been made to go ahead with body worn cameras and we will be taking delivery of 1,200 units before the end of this financial year. I will be able to share more detail about their roll-out in due course.

Operational successes

A snapshot of just some of our successes over the last month, including the results of our December drink/drug driving campaign.

- Our December campaign to reduce deaths and injuries on Surrey's roads by tackling drink and drug driving, saw more than 70 people charged. The operation resulted in 98 positive breath tests and a 37.5% of DrugWipe tests - which can detect the presence of cannabis or cocaine in a person's system within ten minutes - proving positive. Overall, the number of positive roadside breath tests has decreased year on year - evidence that the messages highlighting the dangers of drinking and driving, are being heard. However, 70 charges is still worryingly high and we'll be continuing to tackle drink and drug driving throughout the year ahead.
- A 31-year-old man from Ash has been jailed for 22 years for 14 serious sexual offences against children, including rape, making and distributing indecent images of children under 13-years-old.
- Following a complex and lengthy investigation, three men have been sentenced to a total of 40 years' imprisonment for the serious sexual abuse of a vulnerable woman in her 20s at a home in Redhill over a five-day period. The abuse began when a man unknown to the victim entered the property under false pretences, became controlling and committed a series of sexual offences against the woman. Over the following days he invited other men to the property where they too subjected the victim to a series of serious sexual offences.
- A man has been charged in connection with an allegation of an attempted serious sexual assault carried out in Runnymede earlier this month. He has been charged with attempted rape, threats to kill and possession of an offensive weapon.
- A man has been sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of a Farnham man last July. He carried out the murder in drunken rage after the victim refused to give him access to money to buy more alcohol. It was a brutal attack on a man who had opened his home to the offender because he knew he was homeless.
- Six men have been jailed following a complex fraud investigation, run in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police. The scam, related to vehicle hire, credit and cheque fraud, involved establishing a bogus coach company which never had any intention of providing services to the members of the public that made bookings with them. A link was later established with a series of vehicle hire frauds. The total loss suffered as a result of the frauds was in excess of £800,000.
- A year-long investigation has seen a Bagshot woman given a 20-month prison sentence for fraud offences, where she abused her position as a finance manager. She diverted money from corporate accounts to herself via her mother's account, concealing the payments on the company accounting system as payments to sub-contractors. In one year alone she stole over £48,000.
- A Redhill man has been jailed for five years following a violent crime spree in the Merstham and South Nutfield areas. He has pleaded guilty to attempted robbery, robbery, dangerous driving and driving without insurance.
- A bank robber, who became known as 'straw hat man', has been jailed for two years and ten months for offences in Reigate and Guildford. A detailed description of Paul Williams was issued following the first incident, during which he wore a distinctive straw hat and a lumberjack style shirt. It brought forward a number of witnesses which helped us piece together his movements.

- After a series of raids last October in West Surrey and other South East police areas, 11 people have been jailed for Class A drug supply offences. The operation involved months of planning and a number of different teams across the Force. The operation involved close collaboration between Surrey Police and the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit, who were involved on both of the days of action. Some of those sentenced reside outside of Surrey, but have travelled into the county in order to supply drugs. They targeted drugs users in the county, using their home addresses as a base from which to sell drugs, blighting the communities around them. From those bases they were able to encourage and coerce local people into selling drugs on our streets.

Key diary dates

Runnymede Crime Summit:

7pm- 9pm, Wednesday, 3 February
Chertsey Hall, Chertsey

Surrey Heath Crime Summit:

7pm - 9pm, Thursday, 11 February
Camberley Theatre, Camberley

Mole Valley Crime Summit:

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



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