

# Update from Surrey Police Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave

August 2016



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*In my last bulletin, I set out my over-riding aim as Chief Constable; to make Surrey the safest county it can be.*

*But what, exactly, does safe mean? In policing terms it can be defined in many different ways. It could relate to the overall crime rate, the overall detection rate, the satisfaction rating from victims. Or it could mean how confident people feel in our ability to tackle crime and disorder, or any combination of these things. But, whichever of these you choose, I hope that my intent is clear. This simple statement spans the whole breadth of policing from the local, day-to-day issues such as anti-social behaviour and drink driving, to the national and international threats from organised crime and terrorism. The Force has to be ready to deal with all of them to ensure Surrey's communities are kept safe.*

*I thought I'd theme this update around some of the diverse responsibilities we have and describe how we are meeting these challenges.*

*Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave*



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## Cracking down on anti-social behaviour

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Anti-social behaviour (ASB) can make day-to-day life unbearable for those impacted by it and this is a key priority for our Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT). With the Policing In Your Neighbourhood model each Borough and District has its own SNT, headed by a police sergeant, with a very clear remit to address the chronic long term issues in their area and that includes anti-social behaviour.

The partnership Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week, held last month in conjunction with local authorities and housing provider partners, was a great success with a number of Criminal Behaviour Orders, Community Protection Notices, Injunctions and other interventions made to curtail the worst ASB problems. The Awareness Week was a snapshot of the ongoing partnership work to protect the people who are vulnerable and the communities being blighted by ASB, as well as bringing the bullies responsible to justice.

## Keeping Surrey's roads safe

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At a county level our five week partnership campaign across Surrey and Sussex Police to put the brakes on drink and drug driving has resulted in 108 arrests, with 66 people charged in Surrey. Far too many people continue to take risks and get behind the wheel under the influence of drink or drugs and the campaign was designed to send a strong message that no-one is beyond the law. However, while the dedicated summer campaign has come to an end that doesn't mean our efforts to take drink and drug drivers off the roads have ceased and we are continuing to work with partners to safeguard all road users.

Another strand of our road safety approach includes working with Surrey County Council on a cycle safety campaign over the summer months with the increase in cycling as a leisure pursuit. Please can I ask for your help in spreading the campaign messages and road safety tips within your organisation. See [www.drivesmartsurrey.org.uk/](http://www.drivesmartsurrey.org.uk/).

## Tackling the threat of terrorism

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Turning to the international, while the risk from terrorism in Surrey and the UK as a whole remains unchanged at Severe (an attack is highly likely), the recent atrocities in France, Germany and Belgium remind us of the reality of the threat.

Whilst the most likely targets for terrorist activity are crowded urban places, we still need to be alert to tensions and protect our communities from extremist groups. There are practical steps that everyone can take to minimise risks. In fact, the UK public makes around 3,600 contributions a day to report concerns about having seen something suspicious or being unsure about a person's behaviour or activities - many using the Anti-Terrorism Hotline 0800 789 821. The robust national Prevent strategy aims to intervene to stop people being radicalised, but needs community information to continue its effectiveness.

The message is to be alert, not alarmed, but to know what to do in the event of an attack. The national advice is to:

Run - to a place of safety. If there is nowhere to go then...

Hide - and barricade yourself in if possible. It's better to hide than to confront

Tell - only when it is safe to do so tell the police by calling 999.

Again, your help would be invaluable in spreading the messages within your own organisation about the importance of reporting concerns. General awareness will stand all of us in good stead should the worst happen. No call is a waste of time.

Surrey Police has specially trained Counter Terrorism Security Advisors who can provide guidance to businesses that could be at risk from terrorist activity, particularly those operating in crowded places. If you know of a business that you feel could benefit from this advice, please tell them to call 01483 639871. More information can be found on the Surrey Police website at [www.surrey.police.uk](http://www.surrey.police.uk).

## Operational successes

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Just some of our recent successes have included:

- Our latest figures show that there has been a 50% increase in the number of Domestic Violence Prevention Notices and a 40% increase in Domestic Violence Prevention Orders compared with the same time last year. This sends out a clear message to perpetrators and victims that robust action is being taken.
- A six year jail sentence has been handed to a Woking man for serious non-recent sexual offences against a girl under 13-years-old. He was also given a Sexual Offences Prevention Order for ten years and will sign the Sex Offenders' Register for life.
- Two teenage boys have been sentenced after being found guilty of a knifepoint robbery in West Ewell earlier this year. One was given 18 months in prison, while the other was handed an 18 month supervision order and a two month home detention curfew. In response to the robbery a dispersal order was put in place across Tolworth, Epsom, Ewell and Chessington to manage the anti-social behaviour which was taking place in the area.

## Operational successes (Continued)

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- A man in his sixties has been charged with ten non-recent sexual offences against young girls at a rehabilitation centre in Headley.
- A Caterham thug who launched an unprovoked attack on a man has been put behind bars for nine years for Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent. The victim received multiple life threatening stab wounds, but is thankfully now making a full recovery. This successful outcome is particularly pleasing as the attacker is thought to be part of a local gang that has caused issues in the community for a number of months. In addition, following this incident, two other members of the gang were convicted for various offences, including burglary, possession of drugs and driving offences. They both received a 21-month custodial sentence.
- A thief has been sentenced to a total of 52 months in prison for a spree of cash machine ram raids.
- Three teenage girls have been charged with an incident of causing Grievous Bodily Harm to a younger girl last month in the Stoughton area of Guildford.
- Three men have been charged following an assault and burglary in Guildford in April this year. The three have been jointly charged with several offences, including aggravated burglary, assault and threats with an offensive weapon.

## Key diary dates

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Rookies: 23 August, 30 August and 6 September, ITV, 9pm - 10pm. Follow the journey of one of our Probationer intakes from their first day with Surrey Police through to independent patrolling.



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