



# Update from Surrey Police Chief Constable Lynne Owens



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In Surrey Police we monitor our performance on a daily basis against the Force aspirations, benchmarks and the Police and Crime Commissioner's priorities. Instead of arbitrary targets I am very keen to support a culture of constant improvement to keep more people safe from harm, be there when they need us and relentlessly pursue criminals. At the start of a new financial and performance year, April is naturally a time for us to take stock of the last twelve months and identify what we need to do in the year ahead and into the future. As always the key to this is ensuring that we continue to put the public first by delivering the best possible service we can.

Lynne Owens

## How are we doing?

I am delighted that we have seen 576 fewer victims of burglaries in the last year. Really detailed research and analysis has identified the stages where we can make improvements in what we do, from when a report is made by a member of the public, through the subsequent police investigation to the point of taking a suspect to court. It has also assisted in linking offenders to multiple crimes in Surrey and surrounding counties. In the simplest terms, removing criminals from the streets prevents them from re-offending and we have solved 236 more burglaries this year. We will be aiming to maintain this really positive activity during 2015/16.

Another big focus last year was encouraging more victims of domestic abuse to come forward as we know this is an under-reported crime. Statistics aside, we don't want victims to suffer in silence when there is help available to stop it. I'm pleased to say that reports of abuse from victims and their friends and family have increased. Importantly, our response has also improved, taking positive action to keep victims and their families safe and achieving justice.

I have previously written about the challenge I (willingly) face in properly resourcing these vitally important areas of 'growth' in demand so that we can provide the best service possible. We have set priorities which will focus very specifically on removing and reducing harm to the public. We have seen, like the rest of the country, a significant increase in reports of rape and serious sexual assaults. As with domestic abuse it is good that people have increasing confidence to report these traumatic crimes to us – but I want the whole criminal justice system to better support victims and get justice for them, so we will be doing lots of work internally to address this. Similarly, there has been a drive to increase awareness of, and the police response to, child sexual exploitation (CSE). This needs a multi-agency approach to be effective. A further update on our CSE campaign is below.

Finally, for such a rural county we have many miles of busy motorways, 'A' roads and small country lanes and regrettably last year we saw an increase in fatalities on them. There are a host of different factors which contribute to this so we will be working with other agencies and road users to reduce crashes involving death and serious injury and prevent the distress that these collisions bring.

If you are interested in reading more about our performance, we post the most up to date information on our [website](#).

### **Child Sex Exploitation**

Following our successful CSE public awareness events in March, we will be launching a publicity campaign on 18 May. As I have outlined in previous bulletins, this form of child abuse is perpetrated against boys and girls irrespective of background. While there is no stereotypical victim of exploitation, there are common warning signs in children's behaviour that may indicate that something is wrong.

One of the biggest challenges with CSE is that many of the children involved are conditioned to believe that they are in a consensual relationship. Anyone who is in close contact with potential victims, (such as parents, carers, teachers, social workers, and youth workers) has a part to play in protecting young people against CSE. The most important step they need to take is to educate themselves as to what the warning signs and behaviours are that could increase the risk.

The campaign will promote this learning so I encourage you all to look out for it on our website and share it with your families, colleagues and communities.

### **Swifter justice, fewer hearings and more effective trials**

Good news to report now about how we are working together across the criminal justice system to improve it. This month sees a national transformation in the way that criminal justice is dealt with at the Magistrate's Court. This programme (called Transforming Summary Justice) aims to provide a simplified and quicker procedure for obtaining straight-forward outcomes for Magistrates Court cases. The reforms being introduced will see improved cooperation across the Criminal Justice System between Police, the Crown Prosecution Service and the courts.

Essentially the change means that our victims and witnesses will spend less time caught up in the justice process and that better use is made of police time. This is because this national programme aims to ensure that all relevant material is available at the first hearing so that effective case management can occur and help avoid the need for adjournment. Part of these changes will also see the most complex and serious cases being automatically referred straight to the crown court, without the need for a plea hearing at the magistrates' court first. In essence, the transformation will deliver fewer hearings and provide more effective trials which will improve the service for victims and increase the efficiency of our service.

### **A very 21<sup>st</sup> century challenge**

This piece of news makes me feel a bit "Back to the Future", as Surrey and Sussex Police have been awarded almost £250,000 by the Home Office to expand a trial to see how the use of drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) could help keep people safe and assist with the investigation of crime.

The equipment, use of which is already regulated by the Civil Aviation Authority, can be deployed quickly to locations where it is unsafe for officers or where an aerial overview can really assist officers on the ground. For example, they can fly over fires or impassable terrain, help search for missing people or monitor situations of public disorder. The visual evidence gathered and instantly relayed to operational commanders could provide vital support to an investigation or ensure that officers are sent to the right places at the right time, potentially allowing us to make life-saving decisions.

Some of the benefits to policing and public safety have already been demonstrated during the initial trial, however we are some way off using this equipment on a daily basis. The successful award from the Police Innovation Fund means that both Surrey and Sussex will be able to

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explore their full potential (and any pitfalls) and share this for the benefit of forces nationwide.

## Operational Successes

We are always pleased to report our operational successes to you, which this month include:

- A man has been sentenced to 33 years imprisonment after pleading guilty to the murder of a husband and wife from Fetcham. Viktoras Bruzas broke into the home address of Patrick and Gillian Kettle, just after midnight on Thursday, 27 November 2014. After he gained entry, he went upstairs where Patrick and Gillian slept before stabbing them both a number of times. Detectives from the Surrey and Sussex Major Crime Team launched a major policing operation to trace 39-year-old Bruzas who had disappeared from the scene. At around 6pm the same day he was located and arrested in Oxshott after his black Mercedes was spotted and stopped by police officers.
- Two men have been charged following an armed robbery at a Co-operative store in Woking on Saturday, 28 March. David Michael Wynne, 46, of Anchor Hill in Knaphill, and Jamie Howard Bolton, 33, of Colliers Close in Woking, have been charged with robbery and possession of an offensive weapon with intent to cause alarm or distress.
- A closure notice has been served on a property in Guildford that had consistent issues with anti-social behaviour. A constant stream of visitors caused noise, used threatening and abusive behaviour, and caused disruption including fighting and associated drug-related nuisance.
- A 50-year-old man from Swindon has appeared in court charged with multiple non-recent sexual offences against two boys. Antony Jones, of Conway Road, was charged with 17 offences, including indecent assaults on a child under 14 and inciting a child under 14 to commit an act of gross indecency. The alleged offences took place in Staines-upon-Thames, Egham, Chertsey, Hanworth, Feltham and Watford between 1994 and 2001.
- A Chobham woman has been reunited with a ring of huge sentimental value thanks to the hard work and diligence of a Surrey Police officer. The victim praised the work of PC Aylward saying: "she was professional, calm and caring and was determined to bring the offenders to justice, as well as recover my sentimental treasure. She promised that she would do her best but that the items were unlikely to be recovered. However, a month later she was on my doorstep with my ring in an evidence bag – all I could do was cry with happiness."
- Five people have been convicted of conspiracy to defraud following the local government election in the Maybury and Sheerwater ward of Woking in May 2012. Sentencing is due to take place at the same court on Tuesday, 9 June.

## Key diary dates

For details of Neighbourhood Panel meetings, Police Surgeries and 'Meet the Beat' sessions in your neighbourhood, visit our [website](#)

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