

Update from Surrey Police Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave



April 2017

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I've talked a lot in these bulletins about our focus on protecting the vulnerable and the changing nature of crime, with more crimes happening in private spaces such as the home, rather than on our streets. The challenge for me, as it is for Chief Constables up and down the land, is finding a way to respond to the new crime trends without losing the sense of being a local and visible police force.

With this in mind, I am pleased that the Effectiveness report released by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in March this year recognised that neighbourhood policing is at the heart of our service here in Surrey. Local policing is important to me and I know it's something that most residents feel strongly about too.

Taking this into consideration it was important to find the right person to lead local policing for me so I am also pleased to tell you that, after a rigorous selection process, I have appointed Neville Kemp as our new Assistant Chief Constable for Local Policing, Criminal Justice and Contact Management, filling the role Gavin Stephens held before he became Deputy Chief Constable.

Nev brings a wealth of experience from his 22 year career at Sussex Police and we are looking forward to him joining the team at the beginning of May.

Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave

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Community support

Sir Robert Peel stated, in his famous policing principles, that “the police are the public and the public are the police” and I thought I’d reflect on how true this is in Surrey.

Looking at the support that local communities provide to policing, it is absolutely the case that they are a huge asset in assisting with our investigations, and in keeping Surrey safe.

Since the beginning of this year, the public have helped us find vulnerable missing people across the county, identify people in our CCTV and photographic appeals, and give additional information about incidents that they have witnessed. This support provides us with crucial intelligence and evidence that helps us to identify and prosecute offenders, solve local problems and protect the vulnerable. Only last week we reached 190,000 people on Facebook to track down the owners of stolen jewellery, including a photo locket. We have since charged two men with burglary offences who have been remanded in custody until their court appearance.

Over the last few months we have continued to see a number of anti-social behaviour issues resolved, with closure orders placed on properties across the county, and anti-social behaviour injunctions on individuals that are causing misery to residents. In March we closed a property in Ashford where neighbours had suffered from excessive shouting and abusive language from the family living at the property. A resident in the road took the time to email us to share just how much of a difference this made to their community, saying: “We were able to stand out in the street and enjoy the evening and chat like the good community we are. It was like a pressure had been lifted.”

But the help we get from the public extends beyond local crimes. Last month I updated you on Operation Makesafe, an initiative that was launched with our partners to support local businesses to spot the early warning signs of child sexual exploitation and know how best to report it. It is initiatives like this that mean our communities can become our eyes and ears and ensure anything suspicious is reported.

So how else can you help us keep vulnerable people safe and bring offenders to justice?

Please share these ideas with your teams and communities:

- 1) Recommend policing as a career whether as a police officer, call handler or one of our many other jobs.
- 2) Volunteer – we have lots of volunteer roles that help us train our officers and staff, help ensure the public are kept informed and help us police. You can find out more by visiting www.surrey.police.uk/jobs/volunteering
- 3) Keep informed – sign up to In The Know and follow us on social media. You can find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and Snapchat by adding SurreyPolice.
- 4) Know what to look out for. Some crimes are more hidden and we need you to help spot the warning signs.

So how else can you help us... (Cont.)

The warning signs of domestic abuse to look out for include:

- Controlling behaviour, intimidation or bullying
- Withdrawal from friends, family and social situations
- Physical bruising or marks on the skin
- Stalking and harassment
- Someone feeling fearful, insecure, or depressed

The warning signs of child sexual exploitation to look out for include:

- A child going missing, truanting or running away
- A child receiving unexplained gifts or money
- Adults befriending young people

The warning signs of modern slavery to look out for include:

- Victims showing physical signs of abuse, looking malnourished or unkempt
- Victims seeming under the control or influence of others, rarely interacting with the neighbourhood
- Victims with no identification, few personal possessions or clothes
- Victims who avoid eye contact, appear frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers

If something doesn't feel right, I would urge you and those in your communities to tell us about it by reporting online, or calling us on 101 or 999 in an emergency. We know that when you do it can make a real difference.

Operational successes

Here are just a few of our operational successes from the month:

- A 37-year-old man from Warlingham has been jailed for six years after pleading guilty to multiple online grooming offences against boys. The offences, which took place between 2013 and 2015 included inciting a child to engage in sexual activity, possession of indecent images of a child and distributing an indecent image of a child.
- Three Godalming youths who were given Anti-Social Behaviour Injunctions last December appeared back in court having breached the order. The youths now face further restrictions after amendments were imposed during the court hearing including being banned from any railway station operated by South West Trains or from travelling on any South West Train, and being prohibited from entering Guildford town centre unless accompanied by an adult.
- A man has been sentenced to six years in prison after being found guilty of an armed robbery at a business premises in West Byfleet in March 2015. The man put a knife to an employee's throat before assaulting him and removing around £20,000 cash. Following a thorough and lengthy investigation he was identified as a match for a fingerprint found on a drawer in the office the money was taken from.
- A young woman has been commended for her bravery and courage throughout an eight day trial in which a 32-year-old man from Stamford was found guilty of raping and threatening to kill her near the Guildford Spectrum on Saturday, 22 October 2016. He was found guilty by jurors of all five charges that included two counts of rape, two counts of sexual penetration and threats to kill. He will appear at Guildford Crown Court for sentencing on 19 May.

Operational successes (Cont.)

- Two Surrey Police call handlers have been thanked for their role in delivering a baby girl during their shift in the Contact Centre on Good Friday when they received a call from a woman who said her sister was in labour and the baby was nearly out. One of the call handlers remained on the phone to the father of the baby while her colleague contacted the South East Coast Ambulance Service to request an ambulance and ensure she was providing the right advice and instructions which were relayed to the caller. Both mum and baby are doing well.



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